

# ALBERTA

CANADA,

THE GREAT RANCHING, AGRICULTURAL AND MINERAL COUNTRY  
AT THE BASE OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

MILLIONS OF FERTILE ACRES  
AWAITING SETTLEMENT.

## GUIDE TO SETTLERS.

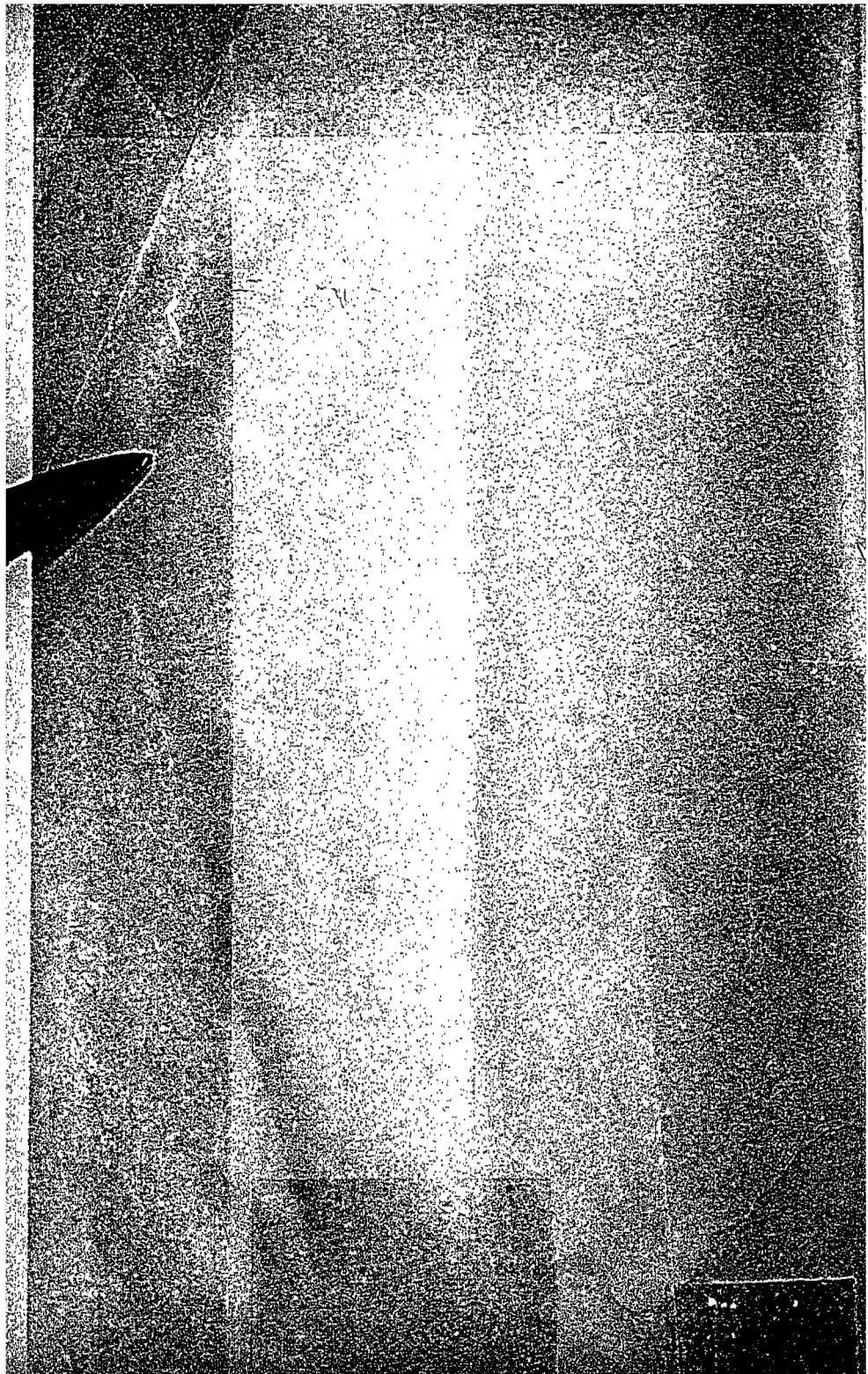
JANUARY, 1888.

COMPILED BY G. FITZGERALD, OF CALGARY, AND PUBLISHED  
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OTTAWA.

THE CITIZEN PRINTING & PUBLISHING COMPANY, 48 & 50 Q  
1888.



## ERRATUM.

In table of contents for Angus Fraser, Calgary, "page 47" read "page 41."

Page 2 For "Fort Ripp" read "Fort Kipp."

" 3 For "connected to" in last line but one read "connected with."

" 4 For "houses" read "28 live horses, cattle and hogs."

" 5 For "Central Meridian" read "Principal Meridian."

" 6 For "Reel Cant" read "Reel of Cart."

" 6 For "Geo. Gaetz" read "Leo. Gaetz."

" 11 For "Titanic Sentinels" read "Titanic Sentiments."

" 11 For "Rev. Tims" read "Rev. Sims."

" 11 For "150 miles" read "Calgary to Macleod 102 miles."

" 14 For "C. Rettles" read "C. Kettles."

" 15 For "group" commencing fourth line read "grasp."

" 24 For "needly" in second line read "weedy."

" 25 For "Waldron" read "Walrond."

" 33 In list of woods read "Red pine and Douglas fir, larch, (larix occidentalis) Moose Wood and viburnum or high bush cranberry."

" 38 For "Waldron" read "Walrond."

" 42 For "attitudes" in eighth line read "altitudes."

" 81 In Par. 37 add "the Minister may in his discretion vary or dispense with the foregoing requirements as to residence, but not as to the cultivation of each separate quarter section entered as a homestead."

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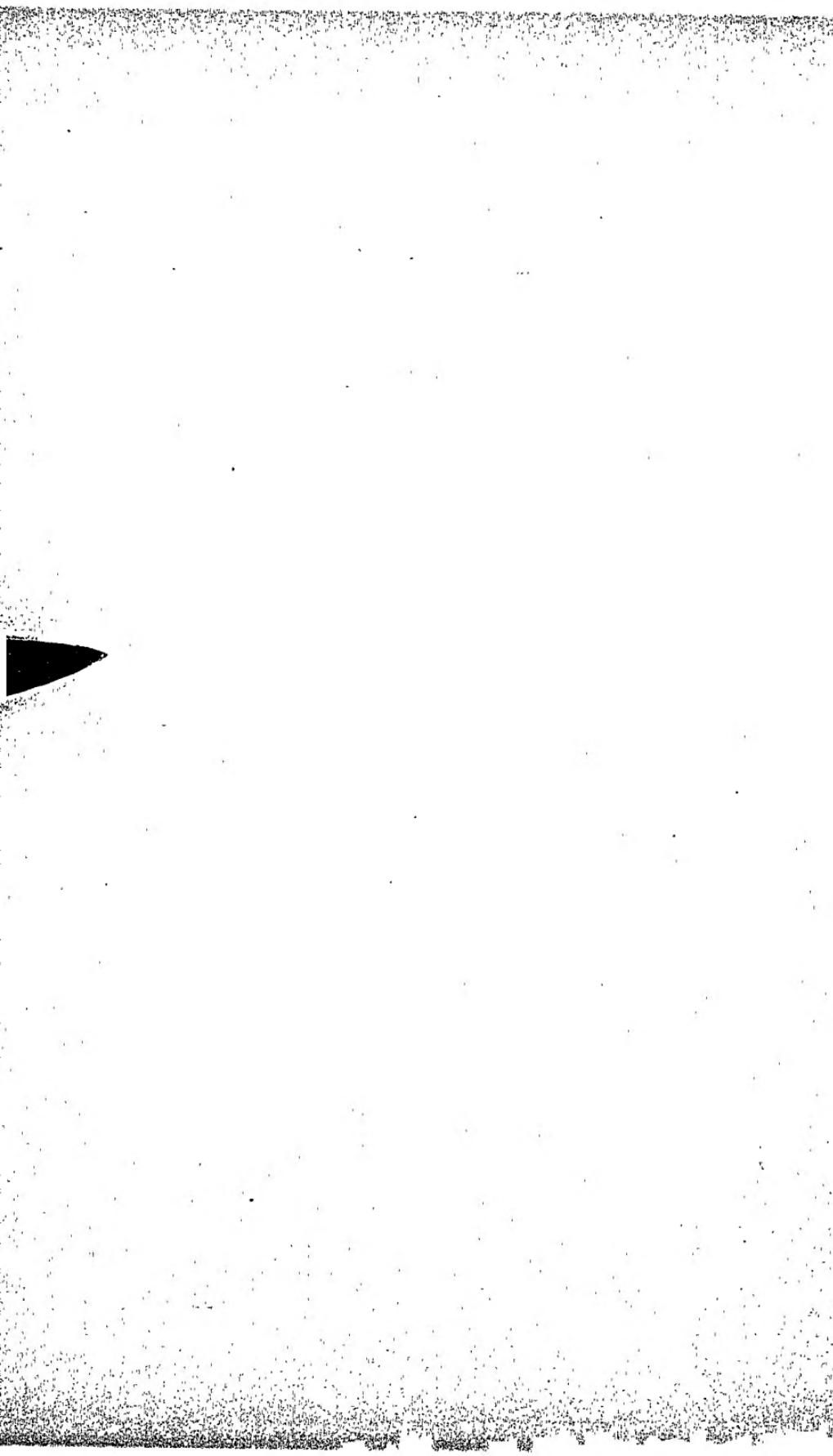
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## INTRODUCTION.

"I dreamed a dream that grew to a hope,  
That as the thistle down might bear  
A living germ in its small balloon,  
Some of my fancies \* \* \*  
Might fall perchance on fruitful soil,  
And root and ripen in their time."

In the fall of 1884 an agricultural society was organized at Calgary, and one of the first steps taken was to instruct the honorary secretary (the compiler of this pamphlet) to compile a pamphlet setting forth the advantages of Alberta as a field for immigration. At that time many false statements regarding the country and its climate were being circulated. The pamphlet contained a number of letters from pioneer settlers bearing testimony to the adaptability of the country for agricultural purposes. A small edition was published by the society at Calgary, and some months later the Minister of Agriculture authorized the publication of another edition of forty thousand copies, which were circulated broadcast and have been fruitful of much benefit to Alberta. The edition then published has been exhausted long since, and to supply the increasing enquiries for information respecting this province the present has been compiled.

Tens of thousands are annually emigrating from Great Britain, many going to far off colonies ignorant of the fact that a better country is within so short a distance: a land offering inducements equal to, if not greater than, those of any other British Colony.

With the hope that this pamphlet will reach many who intend seeking new homes this year, and that it will be instrumental in inducing them to inquire more fully into the undoubted advantages which Alberta offers, believing that if they do so, many, very many will find their way to the country at the base of the Rocky Mountains and build up happy, prosperous homes in a land offering bright prospects to the industrious and persevering, the effort of the compiler has been to lay before the intending emigrant plain facts gleaned from practical and reliable sources.

Hoping that the information contained herein will be productive of much benefit to many, it is placed before the emigrating public.

COMPILER.

Calgary, October 23rd, 1888.

# ALBERTA,

## CANADA'S GIANT INFANT DAUGHTER.

"For I dipt into the future, far as human eye could see,  
Saw the vision of the world, and all the wonder that would be ;  
Saw the heavens fill with commerce argosies of magic sails,  
Pilots of the purple twilight, dropping down with costly bales."

The Provisional District of Alberta, the great ranching, dairy farming and mineral country of the Canadian North-West, embraces an area larger than that of England and Wales together. Lying on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains and bounded on the north by the Provisional District of Athabasca, lat. 55.7, on the south by the International boundary line, on the east by the Provisional District of Assiniboia, and on the west by the summit of the Rocky Mountains, until it intersects the 120th degree of longitude, then due north to lat. 55.7, the eastern boundary of the Province of British Columbia, a length of some 300 miles from east to west and 500 from north to south, it includes in its 107,700 square miles every variety of forest and stream land, grazing and agricultural land, mineral and oil. In it are comprised 45 millions of acres of the most fertile soil on the continent and some of America's best deposits of coal and metals.

Although but yet in its infant years the fame of Alberta has extended to the remote parts of the world, and travellers, tourists and health seekers from many lands have come to enjoy the magnificence of its scenery, to inhale its health-giving mountain air and bathe in the healing waters of its mineral springs; and many, who come but for a brief stay are enticed by the attractions of its many and varied charms, as well as the bright prospects of health and success to make homes for themselves beneath the shadow of the ever beautiful, majestic, awe-inspiring Rockies. Bright, happy homes they should be in this land of sunshine and fertile abundance.

But little was known or heard of the country at the base of the Rocky Mountains, now designated Alberta, until, comparatively speaking, a few years since. Although long known to the Hudson Bay Company's employees, it was not until the advent of the North-West Mounted Police to the country in 1874 that the outer world knew much of its resources and climate. Prior to that time the country was the home of some of the finest and most daring of the Indian tribes of America. They derived their sustenance from the buffalo, which roamed in countless herds on the plains, and enjoyed a life of freedom and independence. Before the arrival of the Mounted Police the traders from the American territories had introduced whiskey, which they bartered to the Indians for robes and furs. This currency soon became a source of trouble and many lives were sacrificed on its account. The police dispersed the whiskey traders and unoccupied their strongholds. Tales of the battles between the Indians and the whiskey traders are still fresh in the memory of the old-timers. But a few years have worked a mighty change. Whoop-up, Stand-off and Fort Ripp are no longer scenes of crime and bloodshed. In 1877 the treaty with the powerful Blackfoot Nation was arranged. In 1878 the buffalo became so scarce that the Indians were driven to the whites for food, and since that time they have been fed and cared for by the Dominion Government on the reserves allotted to the different tribes, and are under the supervision of Indian agents and farm instructors. In 1879 the buffalo may be said to have disappeared from the district, having no longer been found in large herds. True, small bands and stray animals were to be met with every now and again up to 1882, but the great hunting days had ended some years before. In 1881 the Cochrane Cattle Ranche—the forerunner of the many ranches now in the district—was established, 20 miles west of the present town of Calgary, on the banks of the Bow, a band of cattle purchased on the American side were driven over and the foundation of the great cattle industry of Alberta was laid. In this year also the advance survey parties of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company reached here and explored the mountain passes for a suitable line for the future national highway. In 1882 settlers from British Columbia and Eastern Canada, via the United States, began to come in, and large herds of cattle and bands of horses were brought

over. An order in council gave the name of Alberta to this portion of the territories. The Dominion Land Survey parties were busy throughout the country blocking off the Townships, Ranges and Meridian lines. The fall of this year saw the completion of trial lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company through the Bow River Valley to the gap of the Mountain Pass at Padmore. The spring of 1883 saw a new era ushered in, the vanguard of the construction forces made plain and vale re-echo to the hum of industry, and the mighty work went on. Up to this date Alberta had no direct communication with Manitoba or Eastern Canada. The postal service was through the United States, whose postage stamps we used. American money (excepting the Canadian one dollar bills—the Indian treaty money), was in circulation. "Prairie schooners"—three large waggons hitched together and drawn by string teams of twenty and twenty-four oxen brought over from Benton—the head of navigation of the Missouri, all that was consumed and worn by those who inhabited the country at that time; but the day of the "Prairie schooner" has also passed. In the fall of the year 1883 the Canadian Pacific Railway cleft the heart of the district and rushing through the sunlit land pierced the mountain barrier which barred its way to the Pacific. These are the successive steps in the history of civilization in Alberta. Since the advent of the railway what startling changes have taken place; on every hand are the monuments of man's industry observable; by rapid strides has the land been converted from a fertile waste to a fertile granary. The country at the base of the Rockies, formerly the haunt of the buffalo and the home of the wandering savage, has lately become the seat of the wealth, the industry and the learning of the territories and represents in its future and in its prospects the future and the prospects of the great Canadian North-West.

### A RUN THROUGH THE COUNTRY.

"To seize the secrets of the west  
And wrench the bolted doors of worlds unknown."

Alberta is divided into two judicial districts, the Northern and Southern.

The Northern District extends from the northern boundary of Alberta to Mosquito Creek, about 50 miles south of the town of Calgary, and the Southern District includes the remaining portion of Alberta from Mosquito Creek to the International boundary line.

A judge of the Supreme Court presides over each district. Over the Northern Mr. Justice Rouleau (who resides at Calgary), and who also has jurisdiction over the provisional district of Athabasca. Mr. Justice Macleod (formerly colonel of the North-West Mounted Police) is judge of the Southern District, and resides at Macleod.

Alberta was, however, previously divided into three districts: the Edmonton, Calgary and Macleod, and as such they are still better known.

The Edmonton District covered all that part from the northern boundary of Alberta to a point on the Red Deer River, about 100 miles north of the town of Calgary. The Calgary District extended from the southern boundary line of the Northern District on the north to Mosquito Creek on the south; and the Macleod was the same as the present Southern Judicial District.

#### Edmonton District.

In the northern portion of this district the population is sparse, the settlements being small and at a great distance from each other. At Lac-la-Biche, in the extreme north, is a settlement of some few hundred half-breeds, whose chief occupations are hunting and fishing. Here also is a Roman Catholic Mission, and the Hudson Bay Company's store. This part of the country is one of the best fur producing portions of the North-West, and the lakes and streams abound with fish. At the Roman Catholic Mission farming has been carried on for a number of years. Vegetables, including melons and cucumbers, and roots of all kinds have been grown with success, as also wheat, barley, oats and tobacco. The native grasses grow very luxuriantly, and the surrounding country is heavily timbered and is capable of supporting a large population when its resources are developed.

West of Lac-la-Biche, some 100 miles from Edmonton, and connected to that place by a good wagon road, is Athabasca Landing, on the Athabasca River, where the Hudson Bay

Company have a store and saw mill. This is the connecting point with the immense country north. A few barges ply north-east to connect at Fort McMurray with the steamers running from the latter place to the great lake districts of the far north. The Hudson Bay Company intend running steamers from the Landing north-west to the Lesser Slave Lake during the season of 1888. The settlement at the Landing consists of some 20 or 30 Hudson Bay Company's employees, and who shall say but that this little band is the forerunner of a wealthy community, and these men the pioneers of industries now unthought of, or that Athabasca Landing in the near future will not be the terminus of a railway system which, in conjunction with the steamers of these northern waters, will convey the products of the immense petroleum deposits, salt and gypsum beds, as well as the timber of the great pine forests of the north, to the commercial centres of this embryo state.

Turning now to the north-west portion of Alberta we find an almost unexplored region, little of which is known except that there are numberless rivers and streams, sandy hills and rich valleys, the latter in many places heavily timbered. Judging, however, from the rest of Alberta, there is little doubt but that this portion will be found to hold many attractions for settlers.

Passing to the north-eastern portion of Alberta we come to a part much better known, a country of lakes and streams teeming with fish and swarming with wild fowl, of forests of splendid timber, of meadow lands waving with grasses as luxuriant and nutritious as can be imagined, and a soil capable of producing crops which will delight the heart of the future settlers, its natural advantages buried at present to other than the adventurous settler by reason of its difficulty of access.

On the north-east banks of White Fish Lake is situated the Methodist Mission Settlement, which takes its name from the lake; here the missionary and Christianized Indians have demonstrated the eminent adaptability of the country for mixed farming, and the latter have made for themselves the reputation of being the most advanced and industrious of all their race in the North-West, occupying comfortable homes, raising crops of various kinds, and owning houses, cattle and hogs; living almost beyond the limits of civilization, yet in their industry, prosperity and Christianity setting an example, and presenting a contrast to many who have been born and reared amid the advantages and elevating influences of civilized centres. Taking the success which has attended agriculture, with a system of the most primitive kind, in the various little settlements in north-eastern Alberta, it is only reasonable to assume that when more widely known and with greater facilities in existence for reaching this district, it will become a rich and thickly settled agricultural country.

#### Edmonton.

Situated on the banks of the North Saskatchewan, at the head of navigation, and about the centre of the district bearing its name, is the town of Edmonton, one of the oldest settlements in the North-West. The location is delightful, overlooking the river and valley and bluffs covered with native trees beautifying the surroundings. The combined scenery of water, wood and cliff, makes it a worthy site for the future city which it bids fair to become. At the present date the town (not incorporated) has a population of about 500, supported chiefly by the agriculture of the country in its immediate vicinity and the fur and Hudson Bay Company's trade of the north together with gold mining, which has been carried on successfully for years on the bars of the Saskatchewan during low water. It possesses fine stores carrying large stocks of goods, has a grist-mill and saw mill; boasts of one of the best and oldest newspapers in the North-West, which in its early days was one of the smallest papers circulated, being little larger than a sheet of note paper; now, however, it is much enlarged; it has churches for the various denominations; a public and a private school; a telegraph line which extends 75 miles further to the hamlet of Victoria, a Hudson Bay Company post. The town is built stragglingly along the river banks which are here very high, and extends some two miles and a half in length. There are some fine residences nestling among the woody dells, and visitors and residents are alike loud in praise of the charms of climate and scenery. Coal is found in the very heart of the town and is sold for \$3.50 per ton, affording a first-class and cheap fuel; brick clay is also in abundance, and the town boasts some brick buildings, the product of home manufacture.

A small company of Mounted Police are stationed at Edmonton, and are located in the old Hudson Bay Company's Fort, which is one of the features of interest to the new comer, but its uses are gone by and it is suffered to go to ruin, its bastions, pallisades and brass guns being no longer needed for protection. Eighteen years ago without its fortifications Fort Edmonton would have been considered an unsafe place, as the noble Red Man was given to scalping in those days.

Surrounded by such an agricultural country and with its many other natural advantages, there can be but little doubt as to the future of Edmonton.

The projected railway line to connect it with the Canadian Pacific Railway at Calgary will probably be constructed during the present year, thereby giving the farmers of Edmonton an opportunity of placing the products of their farms on larger markets at reasonable freight rates; at present all freight reaches Edmonton either by the river steamers or by wagons and carts from Calgary, from which point the greater portion of freight is shipped for the north.

Steps are now being taken to open up some of the vast forests of the Saskatchewan and the resources in this direction are simply immense. Coal said to resemble anthracite has recently been discovered in the immediate vicinity, and petroleum bearing sandstone is also said to exist at no great distance. Gold mining on the Saskatchewan has for a number of years paid those engaged from \$5 to \$10 per day and each succeeding year the bars are equally productive.

Fort Saskatchewan, a point 12 miles down the stream from Edmonton, is a North-West Mounted Police post, where some 80 men are stationed.

### The Agricultural Settlements.

For some miles up and down the river westward to the Tobacco plains and north to St. Albert, in favorable seasons, the crops of grain and roots are prolific. Oats are said to have been raised yielding 120 bushels to the acre, wheat 60 bushels and upwards, and barley an equally large return, while that of roots and vegetables is so large that the stated yields would seem to be improbable.

In the fall of 1886 the Edmonton District Agricultural Society sent a collection of grains (wheat, barley and oats) roots and vegetables (potatoes, turnips, onions, beets, cabbages, cauliflower, melons, etc.,) as also tobacco and hop plants to the Calgary Fall Exhibition. The collection was most convincing as to the productiveness of the district and would have won attention and praise in any agricultural show in Canada or elsewhere.

A country with such advantages should not remain long unsettled.

### South of Edmonton.

The country for a number of miles is hilly and bushy, with heavy timber in the valleys and gulches. At Bears' Hill, some 50 miles south, there is an Indian reserve, where the Indians show considerable advancement, having comfortable log houses in many instances, and cultivating more or less land. The country in this vicinity is well timbered and the soil productive.

East of the trail which leads from Calgary to Edmonton (and which follows the line of the 5th central meridian for most of the way) on the banks of the Battle River is the

### Battle River Settlement.

The valley extends along the river for some 60 miles and in the richness of its soil, prolific growth of its grasses, and indeed in many other respects, may be deservedly classed among the garden spots of Canada. The population of the settlement is made up almost entirely of Half-Breeds, who make a living by freighting, hunting and farming. A few years since many of the families now here were residents in and around Calgary and other southern places of settlement, but the incoming settlers bought the improvements and land claims of the Half-Breeds and they moved north to the still distant but verdant valley of Battle River, to join their own people, where they can again trip the light fantastic toe to the discordant notes of a rasping violin; a happy, careless race, light indeed are their spirits when congregated for

the frequently recurring ball, when the little cabins are packed to excess, men and women, young and old, stamp the floor to the tunes of "Red River Jig" and "Reel of Cant." Oft their memory glides "back to the past, though the thought brings woe," and stories of the happy hunting days when the buffalo roamed over the plains in thousands and railways and the other (to their minds) disadvantages of civilization were unknown in this hunter's paradise, while away the winter nights. Truly the wonderful and rapid advancement of civilization has been a source of much disappointment and little gain to those indolent, changeful, roving children of the plains. Yet let us not think ourselves superior; even here we can learn many lessons of hardiness and perseverance, and the scrupulous neatness of their log cabins, and the courtly hospitality which they extend to the stranger are striking contrasts to the habits and actions of many who are wont to claim a higher social standing. Many of the families are in very comfortable circumstances, owning horses and cattle and growing crops of various kinds.

West of the trail, near the river crossing, is Hollbrooke post office, and south of these the Stoney Indian Reserve. Following the stream to its source in the lakes we find a thickly timbered country extending far beyond the source of Battle River through to the Brazeau range. The wealth of lumber, of minerals base and precious, of hay and agricultural lands comprised in this little known district, time alone will unfold. Further south on the trail are the settlements of Wolf Creek and Blind Man's River, where a number of Half-Breed families have recently established themselves. The country is part forest, part prairie, the soil good and with cultivation should prove well adapted for farming. Some 13 miles south of Blind Man's River brings us to the north bank of the Red Deer River, the southern limit of the Edmonton District, a district whose numerous resources insure for it a promising future and a large and wealthy population.

Crossing the Red Deer River on the ferry we reach the northern portion of the

### Calgary District.

At the crossing quite a village has sprung up within the last few years comprised of several stores, a post office and a Mounted Police post. The proposed railway to the north, it is supposed, will cross the Red Deer at this point. The surrounding country is most charming and has attractions especially its own to entice the new comer, who will find in the settlers of this neighborhood people as intelligent, refined, industrious and progressive as any in Canada. The Rev. Geo. Gaetz, who is one of the oldest settlers in this district, is, and has been, an example of industry and progress, and is deservedly placed at the head of the intelligent Alberta farmers; his success and enterprise have done much for agriculture in Alberta. Each year his visit to the exhibition is looked forward to by Calgarians; he comes laden with the fruits of his farm, such grains, roots and vegetables as would gladden the heart of any agriculturist; and the officers of the agricultural society are always glad to see him and to have him win the prizes he so richly merits; and in his eloquent and learned discourses has he infused spirit and encouragement to the less progressive by telling of his struggles and their gratifying results. All honor to such men; may their names be written in golden letters in the annals of Alberta; there is room and need for many such men in this fair land.

An endless supply of grasses, timber, coal and pure water are some of the advantages of the Red Deer District. It is eminently suited for mixed farming, and as a butter and cheese producing district should win for itself an enviable name. A more vivid description of the country could scarcely be given than the following from the pen of the Rev. Geo. Gaetz, in a letter to the Calgary District Agricultural Society:—

"The country may be described in general terms as rolling prairie, dotted over with bluffs of spruce and poplar, interspersed with lakes and meadows, and intersected with numerous small creeks, giving the whole a particularly park like appearance, which, in point of natural scenery, is beyond the possibility of exaggeration. I have seen the most beautiful spots of five of the eastern provinces, and of several of the states across our southern border, but I have never seen any section of country which in its natural state could compare with this. Indeed it is almost impossible for a stranger looking off some commanding butte, to realize that the delightful prospect all around him is "in condition primeval." It would not seem difficult to persuade some Rip Van Winkle awakening suddenly among such surroundings

that the buildings and fences had been mysteriously removed and that those beautiful bluffs in the distant landscape were the orchards and ornamental trees among which stately residences had once rested, and that those smooth symmetrical slopes were the fruitful fields of a departed race of agricultural princes."

There is a large tract of land in this fair region open for settlement. A free farm in a fertile land must assuredly, to the industrious and persevering, mean prosperity. Thousands of fruitful acres lie wasting and are waiting the cultivator's hand.

Eastward the country becomes more level and open, while west of the trail are rolling hills and more timber. Some miles south and west of the trail is Little Red Deer, a tributary of the former river. Here a few settlers are found who have made their homes amid the picturesque valleys, beside purling streams, with which the country abounds; here also much good land is open for settlement. West of this point we enter a tract of land extending northward to the Clear Water and Rocky Mountain House District, which Mr. Angus Fraser, one of Alberta's most honored citizens, describes in a letter in another part of this pamphlet; when asked what drawbacks the Rocky Mountain House District possessed, this gentleman answered that the greatest drawback he knew of was the annoyance from flies in the summer season. But that difficulty could be easily overcome by erecting sheds for cattle, as flies will not trouble them out of the sunlight.

The report of the prospecting party, which left Calgary in the fall of the past year, corroborates the account of gold being found in this vicinity—as stated in Mr. Fraser's letter. At Prairie Creek they found numerous colors, and at one point where they sunk fourteen feet they found prospect of good pay if they had had the necessary appliances to keep the water out, lacking which they had to return to Calgary, reporting that they had every faith that "pay diggings" would be struck. The belief is entertained by many that good placer diggings will be discovered there in the immediate future. Mineral springs are also among its attractions, and that it is a country well suited for mixed farming is without question.

South of the Little Red Deer, following the main trail, the country is rolling and the grasses shorter; no doubt but that it will soon support its thousands of sheep for which it seems best adapted. East of the trail the land is open prairie, while to the west brush and timber are found.

Fifty miles north of Calgary Mr. Scarlett has a stopping house and is owner of a nice herd of cattle; the prime condition they were in during the severe weather of last winter speaks well for the fitness of the locality for cattle raising and dairy farming. Perhaps no part of Alberta is worse situated in regard to a timber supply, there being no large streams convenient, down which to float logs from the foot hills; but here, as everywhere throughout Alberta, coal is found in abundance, and good spring water is plentiful. About here the Chinook winds lose their force and consequently the snow lies longer and is deeper to the north during the average winter than farther south, but to the dairy farmer who will provide sufficient fodder to feed his cattle during the few winter months this matters not, and the north country has its decided advantages. Its timber, mineral and pasture resources are immense, it is well watered and well sheltered, with great tracts of most fertile soil awaiting settlement. A land offering inducements to the British farmer and capitalist equal to those of any Colony in the British Empire.

Some miles north of Bow River, along McPherson's Coulee and Rose Creek Valley, we find many settlers' homes, flocks of sheep deck the hills and "the lowing herd winds slowly o'er the lea." Rich soil and many beautiful water springs are found here, and that the settlement is not larger is owing chiefly to the former difficulty of crossing the rushing Bow in early spring and late fall between the seasons of ferry boat and ice bridge. This is now all but a thing of the past, the Dominion Government having constructed a bridge at a cost of \$15,000, which will be completed before this pamphlet reaches the press, and thus do away with the hardships of fording and ferrying and stimulate settlement north of the river. And now we find ourselves in the valley of the Bow River at the Canadian Pacific Railway line and a town of no uncertain future.

### Calgary,

The Queen City of the far, far west. This is indeed a charming valley, and as a town site incomparable. The vale, or basin, as it may more properly be termed, is walled on either side

by precipitous banks and is surrounded, or appears to be, by two rushing, tumbling, sparkling rivers of purest mountain water, the "Bow" and the "Elbow," which find their confluence at the east end of the present town of Calgary.

Westward, Ho! Ye weary, eastern travellers, health-seekers and tourists, gaze westward and behold a panorama of beauty perfect from the Creator's hands. Verdant foothills carpeted with grasses bedecked in season with myriad flowers, snow capped peaks towering to the blue vault of heaven, their fleecy whiteness dazzling in the sun light. Wonder not that you are entranced with the scene.

"Ye hills I love ye ! Oh ! ye mountain tops !  
 Lifting serenely your transcendent brows  
 To catch the earliest glimpses of the dawn,  
 And hold the latest radiance of the West,  
 To gild you with its glory, while the world  
 Hastens to slumber in the glooms below ;  
 It is a pain to know ye, and to feel  
 That nothing can express the deep delight  
 With which your beauty and magnificence  
 Fill to o'erflowing the ecstatic mind."

Nature indeed has showered with prodigal hand her gifts on this lovely spot.

The history of the town is a short one, yet marked with strides of progress seldom equalled, even in this age of electric advancement.

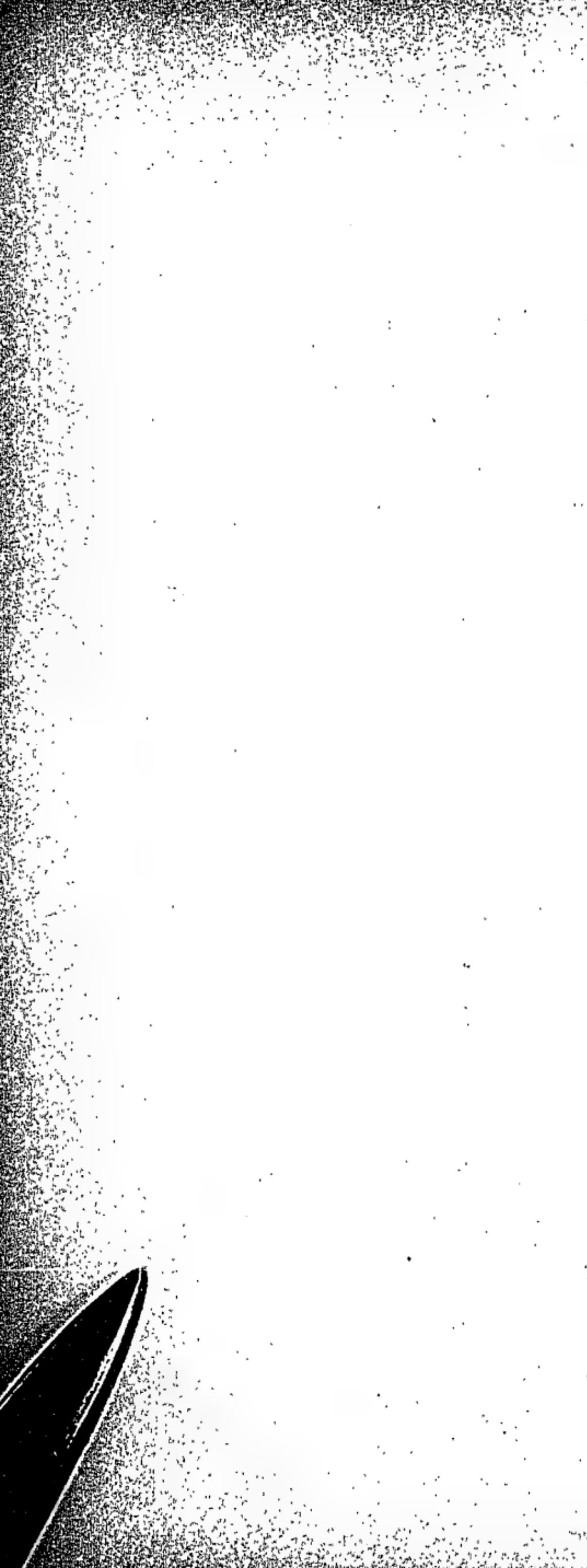
In the fall of 1874 a small company of the North-West Mounted Police were stationed here and located on the elevated plateau near the confluence of the rivers, the site of the present comfortable barracks. There were no barracks in those days, the hardy pioneers dug holes in the side of the bank and burrowed in them the first winter; "dug-outs" they were called. The following spring Colonel Macleod (now Judge of the Supreme Court) named the post Fort Calgary (Swift Current), naming it after a beautiful spot in Scotland where he had shortly before been visiting. In the years that followed the advent of the Mounted Police, the place assumed the appearance of a western trading post. I. G. Baker & Co. and the Hudson Bay Company established posts here and various little log shacks were erected. In '82 the new North-West Mounted Police barracks were commenced and the arrival of Dominion and Canadian Pacific Railway surveyors added some bustle to the place. The spring of 1883 saw a new order of things inaugurated. Enterprising business men, settlers, professional men and hotel keepers pushed on in advance of the railway to secure a location or a claim. The almighty dollar had its devoted followers, gamblers and all the other enterprising spirits who make up the population of a frontier town congregated here, and a canvas town sprung up as if by magic on the east side of the Elbow. For a time the Sabbath was practically ignored and the avocations of traders and sporting characters were pursued week days and Sunday alike. Horse racing was the chief amusement. On the approach of winter more permanent buildings were erected and order and due respect for the Sabbath were enforced. On the 14th of January, 1884, the Canadian Pacific Railway town site was placed on the market and \$57,000 worth of property was sold in a few hours. An exodus from the then town site took place. Houses, shacks, tents all were moved a mile west and the present town sprang into existence, bustle and activity was the order of the day, and progress has been the watchword since. To-day Calgary has a population of about 3,000 inhabitants and enjoys the pleasure and advantages of an old settled town as well as a large circle of agreeable and refined society. Business men of sound judgment seeing the advantages of the place as a mercantile and distributing centre have settled here. Large and complete stocks in every line, wholesale and retail, are held. Competition is keen in every branch and goods can be purchased at reasonable prices. Stone and brick blocks, large and handsome, have been erected, substantial churches, public school house (brick) costing \$8,000, a town hall, theatre, skating rink, three banking houses and many comfortable and costly residences, all go to make up a live western town, which, it is estimated, does an annual trade amounting to at least ONE AND A HALF MILLION DOLLARS. The value of buildings erected in Calgary during 1886 was estimated at over \$200,000 and in 1887 the building operations amounted to \$300,000, £60,000 sterling, including residences and business blocks costing over \$10,000 each, which speaks well for the enterprise and confidence in the future of the town evinced by the citizens. Among the labor employing industries of

The Visit of Senator  
Farmer Delphine  
to Canada 1840

Parts I, II, III

1891

See 1894



the present date is a sash and door factory, two saw mills, that of Major James Walker and the Eau Claire Lumber Company, each employing a large number of men; the latter company have just completed a mill and boom costing over \$100,000. They have now one and a half million feet of logs ready for cutting, besides having three million feet ready to drive down the Bow in the spring. The mill has a cutting capacity of about thirty thousand feet per day and is the most complete concern of its kind in the North-West. Charters are being sought for the privilege of supplying the town with water and gas, and for booming of the Bow for water power purposes; a smelter, a tannery, woollen mills and several other like concerns are spoken of and probably the close of the year will see many of them in operation. All that is required is capital, nature has supplied the resources. Real estate has moved briskly in Calgary for the past year and town lots 50 by 130 feet range in value from \$50 to \$2,500 per foot.

Little more than a decade has passed since the buffalo grazed in the valley which is now the site of a prosperous active town, scarcely has the sod formed over this hollow when it is again upturned to admit of the erection of poles for the electric light and telephone wires. The two daily and weekly papers which are published here contain all the latest telegraphic news, daily trains run east and west. Men do business through the telephone, and the streets are lighted nightly with electric light. With these facts before us who can doubt the future of the town of Calgary. Situated in the centre of the richest agricultural and greatest stock country in the Dominion, its vicinity to the great mineral deposits of the Rocky Mountains, its natural advantages as a distributing centre for a vast and fertile country, added to its attractions as a residential location, it promises by the beauty of its site alone to be chosen when ever practicable as a home for the future population of the district. And a prosperous history is assured for it that must necessarily be unrivalled in the North-West.

The Calgary District Agricultural Society, south of and adjoining the town of Calgary, have their grounds containing one hundred acres, a free grant from the Dominion Government, and beautifully situated on the north bank of the Elbow River. Last year the society erected a large and substantial agricultural hall and fenced in the grounds. The annual fall show has become an event of much pleasure, interest and importance. The two past years the exhibits were such that they could compete with the oldest settlements in Canada. Vegetables and roots of every kind, monsters of their species, wheat, barley, oats in sheaf and sack, all bearing testimony of the country's prolific growth. Butter that would win first quality in the Cork or Liverpool markets tells of another future industry. Horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry all of high merit were on exhibition, as well as specimens of the minerals of the country and the handiwork of the carpenter, smith and saddler. Nor are the exhibits confined to these classes. The ladies of Alberta take an active interest in the event and the display of the fine arts, paintings in oil and water colors, crayon drawings, etc., together with plain and fancy needle work, evoke expressions of surprise and pleasure from visitors.

The society, since its organization in 1884, has done much missionary work. Its first action was to make a collection of root and vegetable crops, minerals and wood, for which a space was obtained in the Canadian Pacific Railway exhibit car, which were exhibited through Canada and afterwards forwarded to England. A pamphlet was compiled by the secretary (the compiler of this pamphlet), a large edition of which was published by the Dominion Government. Since that date the society has been active in promoting the interests of agriculture in this district.

### West of Calgary

The Canadian Pacific Railway winds through the Bow River Valley amid rich bottom lands and grassy hills. Twenty miles west Cochrane is reached, where the British American Rauche Company have their extensive sheep and horse ranches. Here too are the Vaughan coal mines and the Cochrane timber yard. Six miles north of the railway there is a rich extensive country open for settlement. Some 25 miles further west is Morleyville, the oldest settlement in this portion of Alberta, and the home of the McDougal family, whose names are written in every chapter of North-West history. Here we find ourselves surrounded by the foot hills of the mountains, yet even in this vicinity grain crops have been grown, and roots and vegetables are usually a success. The Morleyville District as a horse range has few if any

equals. The Stoney Indian reserve is here and an Indian orphanage, and it reflects much credit on the missionary family above named for the advancement in civilization and industry of the Indians, they being all but self-supporting. There are a number of settlers scattered through the fertile valleys in this locality; owners of horses and cattle all in comfortable circumstances. The scenery is charming and varied, mountain, dale, forest and stream. North, south and west we find splendid forests of Douglas fir, cypress and white spruce. The hills re-echo with the sound of the woodman's axe, and the forests are paying tribute to the onward march of civilization. Millions of feet of logs are floated down the Kananaskis and other tributaries of the Bow, to be converted into lumber to supply the ever increasing demand of the prairie country to the east. At the gap leading to the mountain pass, 62 miles west of Calgary, is Canmore, a railroad divisional point, the inhabitants mostly Canadian Pacific Railway employees. The site is a romantic one, nestling beneath the lofty mountains, on through a winding valley rich in ever varying scenery, beside purling rills and mountain torrent, glimpses of such sublime beauty are caught that would make the most prosaic relax and offer homage to nature's wondrous grandeur. Some 13 miles west of Canmore and immediately north and adjoining the railroad, is the site of the anthracite coal mines and the mining village of Anthracite, having a population at the present date of about 500 inhabitants, all connected with the mining industry. The mines were discovered in 1883, but it was not until quite recently that extensive development took place. A wealthy American syndicate is now interested and already over \$100,000 have been expended in developing the mine and introducing improved machinery. Alberta is now shipping hard coal to the Pacific Coast which is giving the highest satisfaction, and the proportions to which the export will increase cannot be estimated. A short time since Albertans were buying Pennsylvania coal, paying \$16.50 per ton; to-day anthracite coal equally as good is sold for \$8.00 per ton, and as other hard coal seams are opened the price no doubt will come down several dollars. The village has grown almost entirely within the past six months, and is another instance of the gigantic strides of progress which Alberta is making.

Eighty miles west of Calgary is Banff, "The Canadian National Park," or as it is now called, the Rocky Mountain Park. Truly Alberta has attractions and allurements for all, not only for the stock raiser, the farmer and the prospector and capitalist, but also for the tourist, the pleasure and health seeker, the mineralogist and the scientist. A number of hot mineral springs were discovered near the line of railway in 1883, and in 1885 the Dominion Government set aside a large extent of country for park purposes and are daily making extensive improvements, laying out roads and paths to all points of interest, constructing bridges over the Bow and Spray Rivers, building bath houses at the different springs, and in a thousand and one ways adding to the natural attractions of the place. In the fall of 1886 a few low shacks and several tents were the only habitations. To-day Banff has a village at the station and two villages near the springs; boasts of one of the largest hotels in Canada with all the modern improvements; a sanitarium under medical direction, affording the health seeker every care and comfort; a net work of roads and bridle tracks each leading to some charming spot: bridges over mountain streams and placid lagoons; subterranean passages leading to fascinating caverns all speaking praise to enterprise and cultivated taste. It is not necessary to describe the springs, men from all lands have visited them during the past year and their virtues are extolled in many languages. The invalid who has come seeking health has gone away praising and testifying to the healthful and curative effects of the waters, and those who have come to gaze on beauty have feasted and are satisfied. The daily flow of water from the springs is estimated to be over 1,000,000 gallons, the temperature of which ranges from 87 to 115 degrees Fahr., thus affording the bather the luxury of a warm bath at all seasons. The waters are strongly charged with sulphur and other minerals. In its unrivalled position and hygienic surroundings it has already been honored with a high place among the health resorts of the world. Surrounded as this locality is by scenery of unequalled grandeur, by the lovely valleys of the Spray and Bow, the Cascade and the Spray Falls, the different species of flora, which appear and disappear as higher and still higher the botanist climbs up the mountain side, bubbling springs and meandering rills, virgin parks and forests,

"And mountains, multitudinous and huge,  
Of jagged outline, piled and overpiled,  
One o'er the other. Calmly the gray heads

Of these earth fathers pointed up to heaven ;  
 Titanic sentiments, who all the night  
 Look at their kindred sentiments, the stars,  
 To hear the march and tramp of distant worlds,  
 And measure by millenniums, not by years,  
 The awful growth and progress of the time ! "

Among the attractions of the Park is the Devil's Lake, a beautiful sheet of water, nestling in the mountain heights, its shores fringed by forests of pine and its waters stocked with fish.

### Westward

we find Silverton at the base of Castle Mountain, the scene of much speculation and mining activity a short time since. Here in 1883 a rich silver deposit was discovered but for lack of capital the mines are unworked. Here, too, is an enormous bed of copper, said to contain 60 per cent. pure metal.

West and north of Silverton at the base of Storm Mountain is a 40 foot seam of hematite of iron which is reported to contain 67 per cent. of iron ore. That these finds will be developed shortly is almost a certainty. Such prodigious piles of wealth offer field for enterprise and capital which will soon be taken advantage of. To-day British capital is begging for investment at 1 per cent. while mineral deposits are undeveloped here, which will prove mines of wealth to some lucky few, and give profitable employment to many hundreds.

Some 28 miles further the summit is reached, the British Columbia boundary, and here sleeping in the hollows of these mountain heights are the Emerald Lakes, spots of wondrous beauty. Laggan is situated here. During the construction of the road it was a lively mountain town, but the place is deserted now. Retracing our steps to Calgary and proceeding

### Eastward

We find ourselves in the valley of the Bow for a distance of less than two miles, then over the Bow once more and on to the plateau, the rolling prairie of our great North-West. Here and there settlers homes dot the plains for some little distance, then only the Canadian Pacific Railway way-side stations for a time. To the north an uninhabited country promising, by its recent finds of semi-anthracite coal and iron ore, to be the home of a mining and manufacturing population. South of the line, along the banks of the Bow, we find sheep and cattle ranches, including the Brecon Sheep Ranch and the Military Colonization Ranch, the latter having large herds of cattle and bands of horses.

Gleichen, 50 miles east of Calgary, is a Canadian Pacific Railway divisional point, the site of a growing village and one of the Canadian Pacific Railway experimental farms. A number of residences and stores, an English church, together with the Canadian Pacific Railway buildings make up this town. South of it is the Blackfoot Indian reserve, which is described by the Rev. Mr. Sims, in a letter in this pamphlet, as is also the country north of Gleichen in another letter. On over a country, well adapted for sheep and horse raising, for 116 miles further and then we find ourselves on the eastern extremity of Alberta; having passed through a country highly capable of supporting large flocks of sheep and bands of cattle and horses. It needs no great stretch of imagination to picture this country a few years hence, with its hundreds of comfortable homes, its churches, schools and other institutions of civilization; five years have done this for the country we are now about to pass through, viz:

### The Country South of Calgary.

What a change a few years have brought here. The writer travelled from Calgary to Macleod in the early spring of 1883, and in the whole distance, 150 miles, there were not half a dozen shacks to be found. Travelling then was not what it is to-day; then you were thankful to get a sleeping space on an earth floor, and a meal of bacon and beans; then, too, you had to rub down and feed your own horses, and felt thankful to secure the rudest kind of shelter for them. To-day, passing through the same country, we find for the first 35 miles a country thickly settled; pleasant homes, well fenced farms, schools, churches are the sights that meet

us on every hand. When we stop for our noon day meal or put up for the night at the cheery side inn, what a contrast awaits us. Now our horses are taken from us, led to a comfortable stable and well groomed ; we find ourselves ushered into a comfortable sitting room and mine host proffers us an easy chair; the dinner bell rings and we are shown to a well furnished dining room, the table weighed down with good things, our napkins are snowy white, and the fair daughters of the house minister to our wants. We pass our evening in pleasant chat or in reading the latest news of the great world and its busy struggling population, and then retire to a comfortable room up stairs and seek repose for our weary limbs on that modern luxury—a spring bed. And we wonder can this be real ; are all these comforts of civilization in a land which a few short years ago was uninhabited ? For it seems but yesterday that we spread our buffalo robes beneath the wagon and camped there for want of better shelter.

Eight miles south of Calgary, in a picturesque valley on the banks of Fish Creek, is the Glenn farm, the nursery of agriculture in Alberta. Here for a number of years the industrious pioneer grew splendid crops of all kinds, and many samples of his grains and vegetables found their way to Eastern Canada and Great Britain. In 1884 Mr. Glenn had a crop of oats which he boasted could not be beaten in the world, and those who saw the field, some 40 acres, were of like opinion. Several stalks were counted with 12 stalks from a single seed, each stalk bearing about 300 GOOD SIZED AND WELL FORMED GRAINS. The following year, 1885, his crops were equally good. Mr. Glenn died in the spring of 1886, and Alberta lost a brave old pioneer. Honest John Glenn—all honor to his memory ; he was ever ready to speak words of cheer and counsel to the new comer ; never so busy but that he could find time to give them a helping hand, and to his good advice and assistance many a settler owes much of his prosperity. May his name long be written in the annals of Alberta, and his memory kept green in the hearts of the people.

Close to the Glenn farm is a pretty English Church, a school house and the Midnapore Post Office. Seven miles further south we cross Pine Creek, a district as thickly settled as any in Manitoba or the North-West. Here we find a Union Church, a school house, two comfortable stopping places, a post office and a blacksmith's shop. Here last season, which was one of the most backward yet experienced, several splendid crops were grown, one farmer growing off 15½ acres 800 bushels of oats, weighing 40 lbs. per bushel, and another growing 50 bushel of oats to the acre, weighing 44 lbs. to the bushel, and other crops yielding good returns ; while there were others who had but half a crop. Here as in many other places we find the farmers depending too much on cropping, nor is it altogether their fault, the majority started with little or no capital, and have not means to purchase stock ; again, many are single men and cannot engage in dairy farming without employing hired help, and few, very few, have practical experience in dairy farming. Changes will soon come, farmers from Eastern Canada and the Old Country, coming to Alberta, with families, seeing the advantages of living in thickly settled districts, near churches and schools, will purchase those improved farms from the present owners and the young men pushing north will, with the capital acquired by the sale of their first farms, purchase stock, take up new land and be the pioneers of other settlements, marry and make prosperous homes for themselves, and so both buyer and seller will be gainers by the transaction, for it will be a decided advantage to many newcomers to purchase improved farms, that is, at fair value, especially those who are farming for the first time.

South of Pine Creek the country is hilly, the soil and vegetation superior to any from Calgary to the extreme south. Here from early spring to autumn nature delights the senses with her exquisite and ever varying floral charms.

“ Ye flowers innumeros, earth jewels fair  
That lift your eyelids to the morning air,”

filling the air with grateful fragrance. What beds of wild roses, lupines and lillies are here to be found !

Some miles west of the Macleod trail and on the banks of Sheep Creek we find the home station of the Sheep Creek Ranch Company. It is beautifully located, the excellent view of the mountains and the proximity of the mountain streams being both attractive features. The country surrounding is a superb one for pasture. The Company have about 2,300 head of horned cattle and some 1,000 head of horses, a number of which latter were imported from Ireland during the past year.

East of the trail the country is thickly settled ; at the crossing of Sheep Creek there are two stopping places and a post office. Another post office is Dunbow, located some 12 miles east of this place. There is also a lumber yard here, the lumber being sawn in the Foot Hills and thence brought to the Crossing for sale. At the mouth of High River, near its confluence with Sheep Creek and on the east side a large tract of good land is open for settlement. Near here the last season Mr. Jones, jr., grew off a plot of land about a quarter of an acre, over 100 bushels of potatoes. He sold \$90 worth and then had sufficient for his personal use.

South of Sheep Creek the land is rich and productive, the country is watered by numerous springs and also by Tongue Creek, which runs midway between the former creek and High River. Most of the available land on this creek is also taken up, all within the past few years. At High River, near the trail crossing, we find a stopping place, a general store and a post office. Near here is the French and Smith farm, one of the oldest settlements in Southern Alberta. Here for a number of years past splendid crops have been grown, but last year, owing to the hot dry weather of early summer and the backward cold weather later on, the crops were most disappointing, being almost an entire failure. The country here is delightful, rolling prairie, the river banks fringed with trees. There is a large and thriving settlement in this district, most of the settlers having bands of horses and cattle.

Some 25 miles west of the crossing of High River is the home ranch of the North-West Cattle Company, one of the ol' est and most successful of the great cattle ranches of Alberta. The ranch nestles in the foot hills of the Rockies and the range is second to none in the Province. There are on this ranch 9,000 head of horned cattle and 600 head of horses including well bred stock of both classes. The shipments of fat steers from this ranch last fall were most satisfactory to the owners of the beef. Messrs. Brown Brothers of Montreal, who purchased and slaughtered a number of the animals, stated that the beef was better than eastern meat in every way, more juicy and better marbled, and in fact the best meat ever brought into the Montreal market. They say the customers are so pleased with the quality, as they are themselves, that they are endeavoring to handle that meat and that only. This is certainly very high praise for range fed beef.

South of High River the main trail runs through a beautiful country. All west of the trail is either under lease or settled on ; east of the trail and in the vicinity of Mosquito Creek there are several thousand acres open for settlement, as there are also along the Little Bow River further east.

At Mosquito Creek, 16 miles south of High River, we reach the southern boundary of the former judicial district of Calgary and the present district of Northern Alberta. The Calgary Dominion Lands District extends from some 20 miles farther south. Crossing Mosquito Creek we pass into the

#### Macleod District,

the great ranching district of Canada. A few yards south of the creek, is the Mosquito post office and the cow camp of the Powder River Cattle Company, whose cattle, some 7,000 head, range in the vicinity ; they were driven over in 1886 from the Company's range in Wyoming, U.S. The ranch is under the management of Mr. Murphy, a gentleman who has unbounded faith in the future of Alberta. The light losses on the Alberta ranges compared with those south of the line is very convincing testimony of the superiority of the climate and pasture of Alberta. The next point of importance south of Mosquito Creek is Willow Creek where we find the headquarters of the Oxley Ranch Company, the new Oxley post office and a stopping place. There is some land here outside the leases open for settlement. The qualifications of the country are described in Mr. Craig's letter and he certainly should be well qualified to speak on the subject of mixed farming.

West of the trail are the Porcupine Hills, a good cattle range, and also said to contain large mineral deposits.

#### Macleod.

On the arrival of the North-West Mounted Police in 1874 into Southern Alberta they pitched their tents on the banks of the Old Man's River and subsequently built a log fort, which was named after the officer in command, Col. Macleod. Until quite recently the fort was the

headquarters of the North-West Mounted Police Force in the Territories. Shortly after the advent of the Mounted Police, Fort Macleod became an important point, the firm of J. G. Baker & Co. establishing a trading post which, in the following years, became the supply emporium for a large portion of this vast country. Bull trains were continually bringing over supplies from Fort Benton and a frontier town sprang into existence.

In 1881, when the cattle industry started, the majority of the cattle men, induced by the excellent pasturage and frequency of the "Chinook," or warm winter winds, in this portion of Alberta, secured lease holds in the vicinity of Fort Macleod and made the town their headquarters. Owing to the fact that the town site was, during the high water every spring, converted into an island, much to the inconvenience of the people of town and country, the Government was petitioned to grant a new town site and the present one was placed on the market and the following spring saw the old town and fort almost deserted. A new town situated on a plateau about a mile distant from the old fort and commanding a superb view of the Rockies succeeded the old one. Macleod boasts of the largest and most perfect police barracks in the Province, a number of large stores carrying complete stocks in every line, churches, schools, hotels and the many other institutions which go to make up a western town. Handsome residences are being built and in many other ways Macleod shows signs of prosperity and progress. A weekly newspaper, the second oldest in the Province, is published here, devoted largely to the interests of the stock industry, and, like all things in Macleod, is typically western. The present population is about 800. With its great stock interest and the vast deposits of anthracite coal and iron ore in the mountains only a short distance west, Macleod needs only railway connection with the American Territories in the south and the Canadian Pacific Railway on the north to make it one of the most important points in Western America. Given railway facilities, slaughter houses, tanneries, foundries and numerous other industries will soon follow, giving employment to the thousands whose future homes will be in this city.

South of Macleod is situated the extensive Blood and Piegan Indian Reservations. Some 30 miles west of Macleod is the village of

#### Pincher Creek.

situated in a lovely valley, which may well be designated the "Vale of Chinooks." In midwinter when the snow is often so deep that the cattle find difficulty in getting bare places whereon to pasture, the ranchers heart is glad to see pillars of dark clouds lowering o'er the mountain peaks and hear the mighty roar of heaven's artillery as down the mountain passes rush the warm west winds, and pre to! the snow is gone, licked up as it were, the thermometer leaps from 10 or 20 degrees below zero to 40 or 50 degrees above in a few hours, and cattle and horses bask in the warmth and feast their ravenous appetites on the grass.

The village has a pretty little English Church, also Methodist and Roman Catholic Churches, post office, schoolhouse, a few stores, but is lacking a comfortable hotel; no doubt a mammoth hotel will soon be found a profitable institution, for the varied natural beauties of the surrounding country are sure to attract numerous tourists and pleasure seekers. The majestic Mountains with their peaks and passes, lakes and torrents, forests and parks, whose grandeur and beauty would take pages to describe, are in close proximity; mineral springs and mineral deposits are also known to exist here, and no doubt railway communication will not be long wanting, and development of the hidden treasures will soon follow. Those who wish to gaze on beauty can feast to their heart's content by visiting the Mountain Lake District of Southern Alberta. The country around Pincher Creek, like most of the rest of the western portion of the Macleod District, is taken up by stockmen, who are owners of herds numbering from a few hundred to several thousands. Mr. C. Kettle's letter, published in this pamphlet, speaks well for the agricultural resources of the country. Some 30 miles south of the town of Macleod, on the bench lands overlooking Belly River, is the town of

#### Lethbridge.

This magic city of the plains may be said to have grown within the past two and a half years. In 1883 the North-West Coal and Navigation Company commenced mining operations on the

banks of Belly River, shipping the output of the mines for the first two seasons by barge and steamer to Medicine Hat, on the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. In 1885 a narrow gauge railway was built (109 miles) to connect with the Canadian Pacific Railway at Dunmore. Since the completion of the railroad the town has grown with great strides. The present population is estimated at 1,200 inhabitants. The North-West Mounted Police have a new and handsome barracks here. The town possesses several stores and hotels, a bank, a public school, an English Church and a Roman Catholic Church, built of stone quarried near the town, a weekly newspaper and Dominion Land Office. The works of the coal company together with a saw mill employ over 200 men, and is the most extensive labor employing industry west of Winnipeg. The daily output of coal is about 500 tons, which is largely shipped to Winnipeg and other Manitoban towns. The company has a contract with the Canadian Pacific Railway for 100 tons per day. The coal is clear and bright, and is excellent for steam, cooking and heating. The extent of the coal beds in this vicinity is simply enormous. The North-West Coal and Navigation Company have ten thousand acres of coal land. Prof. Dawson, Dominion Geologist, estimates the quantity of coal underlying one square mile in the vicinity of Lethbridge at 5,500,000 tons, from which it will be seen that in coal deposits alone Alberta possesses a treasury of wealth. A number of homesteads have been taken up in this neighborhood within the past year. A large portion of the land is well suited for agriculture. Along Lees Creek and St. Mary's River thrifty settlements are being formed, and no doubt when the time comes for throwing open some of the leased lands for settlement much of it will be found highly adaptable for mixed farming, and the country will become thickly populated. There is a large tract of country south to the International boundary, and east to the Assiniboine line capable of supporting a large population.

In conclusion Alberta may be described as having three distinct surface features, viz: prairie lands on the east, which are thickly timbered in the northern part of the province; then comes the rolling lands or foot hills, extending some 40 miles from the base of the mountains, mostly heavily timbered, and lastly the majestic mountains, the great backbone of this planet, walling its western boundary. Viewing it from north to south, from east to west, what can we say in truth but that it is a wondrous land, and to the industrious it promises to be a veritable land of Goshen.

## COMMERCE.

"God's gifts put man's best dreams to shame."

When we begin to consider the great and varied resources of this Western country—its immense forests of magnificent timber, its inexhaustible coal fields, its mines of gold, silver, lead and iron, its agricultural productiveness, its great adaptability to the raising of horses, cattle and sheep—it does not need a strong imagination to group the gigantic nature of the commerce which, before many years, will be centred here.

There seems to be every natural condition happily and purposely blended to make Alberta one day the richest province of the Dominion. Where else in Canada will one find such a lavish wealth of natural resources? Where such a climate—healthful, energizing, joyous beyond compare? Providence, the bountiful hand of nature could scarcely have done more for a country. Already, although the Province is as yet an infant giant, the process of development has begun. The forests are already being drawn upon for the comfort and progress of the initial thousands of people who have come here. Saw mills of big proportions have been erected at all the principal towns, and the great desideratum of a plentiful supply of the finest lumber in the world is an accomplished fact. These mills will be multiplied and their product will be increased just as the demand is enlarged.

All along the Eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains, from McKenzie River almost in the arctic regions, Southward to the boundary line of the United States, a distance of a thousand miles or more, it is timber all the way illimitable, inexhaustible; and here is the source whence the settlers of these wide and fertile prairies almost to the shores of Lake Superior, will draw their supplies of lumber, building up a trade in that article, which will eventually give employ-

ment to its tens of thousands of hardy bushmen, sawyers, millmen, teamsters, carriers, and the hundreds of different hands, through which the original stick of timber passes before it is eventually fashioned into the horse of the toiler on the treeless plains. Naturally the lumber trade is one of the very first that begins to develop in a new country, and there is already a vast deal of money invested in it in Alberta, and all the time we hear of new ventures of fresh enterprise in this line, which the necessities of the present and the glowing prospects of the future seem to warrant and necessitate.

Turning now from one great natural resource to another, one is amazed at the tremendous possibilities of mining operations in Alberta. All this country has been proven to be underlaid with vast deposits of coal, both bituminous and anthracite. It crops to the surface at hundreds of places, and at almost any place a drilling of a few hundred feet at most, will penetrate into a bed of coal; already this natural product is taking a prominent place in the commerce of the country. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent in its development, in the introduction of machinery for putting the coal in marketable shape, and in buildings and spur railways.

The anthracite coal mines at Banff are now sending hundreds of thousands of tons of as fine a hard coal as can be found on the continent to the far distant market of San Francisco, where it is used for smelting purposes, and its excellence for the uses to which it is put has practically driven all other foreign coals out of the market. The deposits of hard coal at Banff are incalculable in extent, and their wealth-producing capabilities, beyond computation; hundreds of miners are employed, and the staff is constantly being increased.

At Lethbridge, where the famous Galt soft coal is produced, are also to be found hundreds of hardy miners who send out their hundreds of tons of black diamonds each day into markets all over the North-West. There are other mines worked on a smaller scale at Cochrane, Edmonton, Masters and Red Deer and other places, besides the innumerable veins that have been opened by settlers all over the country, and who enjoy an inexhaustible supply of fuel at their very doors for the mere trouble of picking it out and hauling it away. No one can estimate the vast magnitude of the commerce that will yet centre in the coal industry of Alberta.

Lying almost side by side with the great coal deposits of this region are to be found minerals of nearly all kinds: gold, silver, lead, copper, iron, etc., in such abundance that there is little doubt that Alberta some day will rival the most productive of the neighbouring States in its mineral output. Immense mines of silver have been discovered in the mountains along the line of the C. P. Railway, and the initial steps have been taken in their development. A smelter is projected to be located at Calgary, and it is probable within a year another great industry will be begun, namely, the reduction of ores.

The neighbouring Territory of Montana, although a poor agricultural country, turns out some \$15,000,000 worth of minerals each year. There is no reason why Alberta should not be equally productive. The general character of the country is continued, so far as the mining regions of the mountains are concerned, and explorations show that the possibilities are even greater as the mineral belt works northward.

For many years the presence of gold on the North Saskatchewan and tributary streams has been a source of occupation and profit to the hardy placer miners.

The source of these placer deposits is of course in the mountains, whence the streams emanate.

In iron deposits Alberta has an unlimited quantity of the richest in the world. This iron ore for the most part lies directly contiguous to coal deposits, and is therefore in readiness for immediate use. For instance, in the Crow's Nest Pass of the Rocky Mountains not far north of the United States boundary line, the iron deposits have been thoroughly inspected, and it has been estimated that there is iron enough there to keep the continent supplied for half a century, and the iron and coal are within a stone's throw of each other, there being a seam of coal of no less than 25 feet in thickness ready to be shovelled into the furnace for the reduction of the stubborn ores. And other such mines are located in the Bow River Pass, on the line of the C. P. R. Here, then, are the mines from which the great prairies of Canada will draw their supplies for the network of railways that will one day traverse them, and for the thousand and one other uses to which iron is put.

In this iron industry alone a vast commerce must yet centre, and every day brings its development nearer.

Turning now from the riches of the mother earth to look for avenues of commerce in Alberta, let us glance at the product of our live stock, as is shown in other parts of this book. We have as fine sheep pastures in the foot hills of the mountains and the vast plains eastward as can be found in the world. The clip of wool has reached already about 165,000 pounds annually, and this can and will be increased a hundred fold without as much as beginning to exhaust the great pasturages of Alberta.

Woolen mills will be a necessity of the near future, and one is now projected at Calgary. Here will be found the home of a great woolen industry, producing enough clothing for the people of the great prairies, and much will remain for exportation.

The industry of tanning is also one which will flourish here. The enormous herds of cattle at present ranging in Alberta afford thousands of hides to the tanner, and, as if nature left nothing wanting, there is a practically inexhaustable supply of hemlock bark in the mountains near by. Tanneries are now spoken of, and that they would succeed splendidly goes without saying.

Keeping all these resources in view, who can doubt the magnitude of Alberta's commerce a few years hence. There is no other undeveloped section of country in America which offers so rich and varied a field, and those who are in at the start are those whose opportunities will be best to thrive with the country and share in the great wealth that nature has spread out and invited a world to come and participate in.

### MIXED FARMING.

The pioneers of new countries have many losses and hardships to suffer, which are unknown to those who follow in their wake, and this is especially the case with the pioneers of agriculture. Being far from markets they cannot always procure fresh seed, and therein lies much of the failure, which too often is attributed to climatic causes; then again most of them cannot afford to purchase improved implements, with which to properly till the ground, and many also are farming for the first time and have no practical knowledge of the best season for and the best mode of sowing the different crops. Alberta has suffered as much in this way as most new countries; poor seed and ill-prepared seed beds have been fruitful of much loss and disappointment to the farmers even to the present time. The prairie land is ploughed and gets a rough harrowing, on this the seed is sown, seed too, which, in many instances, is old and of a late maturing variety, then the harrow is run over the ground covering some of the seed with a heavy sod and some again left uncovered. Rollers are only used on a few farms, and a heavy land crusher is unknown in the country. Chain or disc harrows, so necessary for the preparation of good seed land, are not yet introduced, and from this primitive mode of agriculture even growing and heavy crops are expected; the wonder is that so many prolific crops are obtained as there are, which shows that the soil is highly productive. But while it has been demonstrated beyond question that grain, root and vegetable crops of all kinds can be grown to great advantage in Alberta, yet tillage or crop farming will for many years to come be but a secondary consideration to the farmers here, for the simple reason that a more profitable line of farming can be carried on, of a class too, which is being adopted in the richest farming districts of Eastern Canada and Great Britain, and found to be best paying, mixed farming, and by that is meant growing sufficient crops for home consumption and relying on the sale of butter, cheese, beef, pork, mutton and wool for income, and for this class of farming Alberta is second to no country. We have here everything that an intending dairy-farmer could desire: free land, a bountiful supply of the forest spring water, many springs ice cold in summer which yet remain unfrozen during the coldest seasons, rich grasses, bright healthy climate, short winters, plenty of fuel, and markets which practically have no limit, for when the supply more than equals the demand of the local markets, then we have the great centres of the east within easy reach, in which the prime meats of Alberta will find ready sale at highly profitable prices; and for butter and cheese we have not only the markets of the east but also those of the west, including Australia. The butter and cheese industry of Alberta promises to assume immense proportions before many years, in that the natural advantages are so much greater than those of the countries growing wealthy on the dairy industry. We learn that the State of Iowa has added *several millions of dollars yearly* to the revenue of the State by the difference in price alone of the article now manufactured by the creameries and the inferior article formerly made;

and there is no reason why the Alberta butter trade should not increase in like proportion until the exports become a source of revenue to this country. Truly Alberta is in sad need of producers when its great inducements have not yet interested capital or awakened industry to produce sufficient of a product for which the country is especially adapted, to supply the local markets. To-day the farmers of Alberta are not manufacturing *fifteen per cent. of the butter needed for home use*. This, too, with an ever increasing demand for a good article at a high price, viz.: 35 cents (ls. 5½d.) per pound. There are two apparent reasons for this non-producing condition. One the lack of capital by the industrious class, and the other the lack of willing, intelligent labor. On every hand we find the fever of speculation rampant among the farming class, men greedy to acquire hundreds of acres of land, large farms unstocked, the owners "Micawber" like waiting for something to turn up whereby their farms may grow to some fabulous value and thereby enrich them suddenly and without labor, above all things without labor, for they may wait but they cannot work, they have not been educated to it and they do not intend to learn. It is well for the country and its future that we have another class—the diligent settlers who are deserving of the name of farmers: they are winning wealth for themselves and prestige for the country of their adoption. From a number of deserving farmers the name of Mr. Sam Ray, a letter from whom appears in this pamphlet, may be mentioned as an instance of what persevering industry will accomplish. This sturdy pioneer tells us that he commenced farming in the spring of 1884 with a capital of about \$500 (£100), since then he has acquired an extensive farm, built and furnished a comfortable home and all the necessary outbuildings, has now 80 head of cattle, besides several horses and a stock of farm implements, in fact has grown wealthy in four years, and this too, with a large young family to support. He informs us that last year, 1887, he milked 20 cows and sold 2,500 pounds of butter, for which an average price of 35 cents (ls. 5½d.) per pound was obtained; he estimates that the milk of at least two cows was used for family purposes, thus leaving the butter sold the produce of 18 cows, which at the above price reaches the handsome figures of \$48.61 (£9 14s.) as being the amount realized from each cow for the season from butter alone, to which should be added the value of skim milk fed to pigs or calves. This gentleman informed the writer that when he first started dairy farming he was fearful the price of butter would not keep up. He is troubled in that way no longer, as he finds the demand in the home market is increasing each year and that a good article will always command a good price. Mr. Ray has not devoted his time to dairy farming alone; each year, excepting the last, he has grown splendid crops, including flax, and here it may be added that although this crop (flax) has been little grown here, yet wherever experimented with it has grown to perfection, and will prove one of the most profitable productions of the soil in Alberta, for here we have a favorable climate and soil superior to any of those countries which are to-day the great flax producing ones of the world viz., Russia, Holland, Belgium and Egypt. England pays out annually to Russia alone something like ten million dollars for undressed flax. Then for the dairy farmer the seed is highly profitable for feeding young stock, and in the market here a large amount could be disposed of. The present price of flax seed ranges from 6 to 10 cents per pound. Nor will the dairy farmer be confined to raising one class of animal alone. He will, with his skim milk and coarse grains, peas and barley and roots, be in a position to raise hogs, which will be a source of great profit. At present 95 per cent. of the pork and all the bacon consumed here are imported. Then a small band of well bred sheep and a few good mares to raise stock off, can be kept with much gain to the farm. Another branch of mixed farming, and one which is likely to get a start this year, is cheese making; several farmers in the vicinity of Calgary are making arrangements for the establishment of a cheese factory, and once the ice is broken in this direction many similar institutions will be founded, for there is no question as to the lucrativeness of this industry in our great country. Alberta possesses all the natural elements essential to the success of the cheese farmer.

The practical man coming to Alberta with sufficient means to start, say \$2,500 to \$3,000 (£500 to £600), will find good land in almost any part of the country, with schools within reasonable distance in the settled portions and new school districts continually being organized. The new comer cannot expect free land in the immediate vicinity of towns, as these locations have already been secured by those now, in the country, but land equally as good and near enough for practical purposes can be obtained—160 acres free and 160 acres pre-emption, which can be purchased at \$2.00 to \$2.50 per acre.

Read the letters published in this pamphlet by practical men, and if you are convinced and intend seeking a new home come at once and secure the advantages offered by a new country.

### SHEEP FARMING.

"In a far-distant land, the eve  
Had cooled day's sultry glow,  
And shadows down the mountain-side,  
Came creeping soft and slow  
O'er pastures white with feeding flocks  
And sheep-set valley's brow."

At a period when speculation is rampant in this new land,—when men daily exert their energy to devise schemes whereby they may acquire wealth without working or waiting,—it is not to be wondered at that the slow but sure roads to competence are unheeded by the many.

Syndicates to obtain Railroad Charters to build lines into the great mineral and oilfields of the north.

Syndicates to erect smelting works at Cal; ; to run water through its streets ; to bore for natural gas ; to build tramways ; to buy town sites ; to develop the placer diggings on Prairie Creek ; these and many such schemes are deemed by knowing ones "short cuts" to success and are the all absorbing topics and attractions. And in the worry and excitement of our haste to grow suddenly rich we take little interest in an industry which promises to be the keynote to Alberta's future prosperity, viz.: "Sheep farming." 'A sheep farmer forsooth,' in this age of activity when men grow rich in a year. Yet the natural advantages which Alberta possesses for sheep farming will soon give her a place second to few, if any, of the wool growing countries of the world.

And the success of this industry will be a magnet to the British capital now seeking a like investment elsewhere, lacking knowledge of this country so convenient to the great markets of the world ; and so wonderfully suited by nature for wool and mutton growing.

The history of the Australian colonies affords a good criterion on which to base a few remarks, and from which to draw a parallel.

Some thirty odd years since the Australian colonies were aglow with the gold fever. Men grew rich in a day and as suddenly became poor ; "Ballarat," "Bendigo," and "Gabriel's Gully," sprung up as if by magic, and gold dust was circulated with a lavish hand. The plodding pioneers who started sheep farming in those days were looked upon with feelings akin to pity. But the order of things is now reversed ; the mines are worked out and cities once ripe with pleasure and dissipation are now deserted and almost forgotten, and the majority of the men who "struck it rich" died poor ; too many of the big hearted miners found an unconfined grave by the old trail through the bush on their way to the Palmer and other new fields.

The history of the sheep farmers forms a striking contrast. For years they toiled on steadily increasing in numbers until to-day the sheep farmers of the past are the leading business men in those far off colonies. Statesmen and leading business men tell with pride of their success as sheep farmers, and of the pleasures and trials of life on the sheep station. Their sons are graduates of the best schools of the world, and are the professional and commercial men of the times.

The Merino and Leicester have grown from thousands into millions, and are spread from Queensland to Steward's Island.

But it was not all sunshine with the sheep farmer ; for years he had to lead a solitary and lonely life, was a stranger to the luxuries and enjoyments of civilization ; was far from market for his wool ; the "boiling down" establishment his only outlet for surplus meat where the carcass was valued only for its hide and tallow ; he had to battle with disease fostered by a tropical sun, and years of drought, of which we can form no conception, oft recurring, caused terrible losses.

The rabbit, the wild boar and the dingo, were formidable enemies ; the first ever increasing and requiring untiring exertions to keep them in check. Patience and pluck were needed ; and patience and pluck and intelligent management won the day and brought a rich reward.

and the voice of the sheep farmer is now heard in the Parliament and Commercial Chambers of the Antipodes.

Alberta to-day offers what the Australian colonies had to offer thirty years ago : millions of acres of rich grass lands, well watered and adapted in every respect for growing first-class mutton and fine wool ; in a land blessed with a climate of sufficient heat and sunshine during two-thirds of the year to keep the yolk in active circulation, thereby insuring a fine fibred wool ; with mild winters and early springs, where cold rains and dust storms so injurious to the fleeces are almost unknown ; offers inducements, too, which Australia never could offer, a railway running through the centre of the grazing lands and markets for mutton and wool within easy reach.

Alberta is par excellence the sheep country of North America.

There is now on the plateau and undulating prairie lan's east and northeast of Calgary a country capable of supporting *ten million* sheep, a country of sweet thick grasses such as sheep thrive best on—this, too, outside the limits of the large cattle ranges.

To the men who will engage in this industry in Alberta with a capital of from three to five thousand dollars, and devote themselves with diligence to the care of their flocks, and use the intelligent judgment so much needed in sheep husbandry to secure the animal whose wool and mutton will be of the highest market value, a fortune is assured, and that, too, at the end of a very few years.

In the fall of 1884, Senator Cochrane (who was also the pioneer in the large cattle ranching industry) purchased a band of several thousand sheep in Montana and placed them on the lease west of Calgary, and the following spring a number of others invested in like manner, and in 1886 several more bands were brought over. Since then the import duty of 35 per cent. has stopped further importations from the American side.

The animals brought over were, as rule, a nondescript lot, a mixture of Spanish, Merino and Downs, and will require much careful breeding to raise them to a high standard. But careful and intelligent breeding means wealth to the sheep farmer.

Last year a number of well-bred rams were imported, mostly of the Down family, which seems to be thought the best by many of our present sheepmen.

There are now some thirty thousand sheep in the district, not including last year's increase.

The losses on the British American Ranche last winter (in a flock of several thousand) did not amount to over 2 per cent. The clip of wool in 1887 amounted to over one hundred and sixty-five thousand pounds. The wool was shipped chiefly to Hamilton and Montreal, and, considering prevailing low prices, the class of sheep and the poor system of handling, the prices realized (15 and 16 cents per lb.) were all that could be expected.

In Alberta sheep farming is in a very primitive stage, and until a more intelligent system is inaugurated the industry will not progress as rapidly as it should. Instance the mode of handling wool in Australia with that in vogue here. In the former country years of careful breeding have been observed ; each year the flock is culled, and the culls "boiled down ;" then at the shearing of those great flocks, numbering from twenty to eighty thousand, every care is taken to classify the wool ; each fleece is taken from the shearer to the folding table, the skirts, bellies and all soiled parts are removed. It is then classed according to the fineness of its fibre and length of staple, and is baled with fleeces of the same quality only. Fine, medium and coarse are baled separately and marked according to their class, while bellies, locks and skirts go together ; thus, on the arrival of the wool in market the buyer can tell from one fleece the class of wool he is buying. Here no classifying takes place, long and short, coarse and fine, skirts and locks are all packed off together, and the grower suffers for the neglect.

It is not alone necessary to grow wool, but to grow the wool most valuable and place it on the market in the best possible condition, if success of a high order is to be attained. When the Alberta wool growers do this, and no doubt the majority will soon see the wisdom of doing so, Alberta wool will claim a high place in the markets.

As to the breed of sheep most profitable, opinions vary ; all breeds pay well when well cared for. For large flocks, Merino and Merino crosses ; Merino Leicesters, perhaps, are the most valuable both for wool and mutton ; others think Shropshire or Oxford Downs are a better cross, and still others the Cotswold ; be that as it may, give any good breed care and they will pay.

There is a splendid opening for stud flocks in Alberta, and a fortune will reward the individuals or companies who will engage in that line. As to the mode of handling sheep here

and the size of bands, it will be found that bands of from eight to twelve hundred can be most profitably handled. One man will herd that number, and one hundred tons of prairie hay or other fodder will take them through our worst seasons and one half that amount during the average winter. The cost of building folds and sheds is light, as no skilled labor is required.

There has been much written and said relative to the erection of woollen mills in Calgary, and no doubt the necessary capital and skill will soon find the attractions sufficient and that one of these mills will be established at Calgary this year, on the banks of one of the rivers whose waters furnish sufficient power to drive ten thousand mills. Such establishments will give impetus to wool growing in Alberta, as well as be the means of employing much labor and enable us to export instead of importing woollen goods into a country which Nature, in the bounty of her gifts, has destined to be one of the great wool producing countries of the world.

### HORSE BREEDING IN ALBERTA.

(WRITTEN FOR THIS PAMPHLET BY SANQUINIUS.)

" " Bring forth the horse ! " The horse was brought.  
 In truth it was a noble steed  
 Who looked as though the speed of thought  
 Were in his limb's ; but he was wild,  
 Wild as the wild deer and untaught  
 With spur and bridle undefiled—  
 'Twas but a day he had been caught ;  
 And snorting with erected mane,  
 And struggling fiercely but in vain  
 In the full foam of wrath and dread  
 To me the desert-born was led."

\* \* \* \* \*

The experience of the last few years has shown that while horned cattle and sheep can be successfully and cheaply raised in the district of Alberta, yet horses can be still more cheaply and successfully bred on our prairies. The question of horse breeding then thrusts itself upon us more strongly and urgently than any other of the many industries that may be entered upon in the Territories. In order that those who have never seen a prairie and know nothing of its modes may more easily follow my views upon this subject, I shall " begin at the beginning." The first requirement is a good run in good ranching country. What is a good run for horses ? To my idea it is a tract of good grazing land, slightly rolling and with sufficient timber to afford some shelter, add to this some sufficient quantity of meadow (prairie) land, so that a reasonable quantity of hay can be cut and, above all things, plenty of good water, *without* swampy coulees, and we have to my mind a first rate run for horses. Our ranche obtained, what next ? To me the first necessity is a good barn or barns, according to the size of the ranche, with plenty of loose boxes for stallions and paddocks for them to run in, also an hospital for weakly or sick horses, and this separate from the general stables. Adjacent to the stables, a well arranged strong corral or corrals—great care being taken that there are no projecting points or corners to injure wild young horses—add to this a good, well plastered log farm house and our ranche is ready for occupation. This seems a very extensive start, but most of the work can be done by the rancher himself, and, at any rate, to insure success, every appliance that can be obtained should be utilized for the comfort and safety of the stock proposed to be raised, and, as far as possible, everything provided out of capital that will have a tendency to assist in the successful raising and handling of the horses. For instance, I am of opinion that every stock grower ought year by year to cut and lay by a certain quantity of hay to provide against a severe season or it may be an epidemic, when his horses will require careful handling. This hay may not be necessary in the greater number of seasons, but occasionally a severe winter comes, and although horses, least of all, require *any* care in this country ; yet the loss of two or three valuable animals at times would far out-balance the cost of the necessary provision, and, at any rate, no true lover of the horse would care to see them run down for want of the hay that our country so liberally produces, and which can be put up at so reasonable a cost. Therefore, I say in providing your capital have an item for the winter's supply of hay ; and I say this in

the face of the fact that I have known of bands of horses worked in freighters' and surveyors' carts all summer, turned out in the autumn foot sore, back scalded and thin, that have been found in the spring fat and sound, ready for the summer's work—this is not an isolated case, but rather the rule. Still, I stick to my text, and think it safe to provide a certain quantity of provender.

Now, as to the man who will probably succeed as a rancher. First, he ought to know a horse when he sees it. I know everyone is a good judge of a horse, but in some way most people make mistakes, not that they don't know. Oh, no; they are all good judges; but then the ways of horse flesh, and particularly of horse men, are peculiar, and so I say he should know a horse when he sees him, and be able to tell what his good and bad points are; he must have good judgment and a calm, quiet, confident nature. If he is going into horse raising he, as master, must know everything and see to everything. In short he must make up his mind to hard work for at least five years, by which time he may hope to have the right sort of men about him and to have so far drilled his people that he can depend upon his *Bosses*. His knowledge will be put to a severe test when he proceeds to stock the ranche, and no matter how good a judge he may be he will require to exercise the greatest care.

The first question will be what class of stock he wishes to raise; my own personal feeling being in favor of the general purpose horse. If our rancher has only small means then he might very well turn to the native mares, from them he could select to-day plenty of fairly good size, fourteen to fourteen and-a-half hands high, roomy useful animals able to carry a fairly good sized colt, such mares of good solid colors (and here one of his difficulties will arise, it being necessary to trace the mares pedigree back in order to avoid the *pinto* coloring which is so largely diffused amongst the native stock). This difficulty got over then the question of *sires* comes up and the rancher will have to show his judgment in mating the mares. No man ought to think of crossing the native mare with anything but tall upstanding thoroughbred sires first or crossing horses, the thoroughbreds getting by far the preference, and in this too the rancher must be careful to see that his *big* thoroughbred comes of *big stock*; many big fellows throw back and their progeny are small. What must be sought for is an improvement in size on the natives, and this once got our rancher will find himself with a class of horses, even the first colts, of fair size, good looking, tough, sound, and when properly handled, tractable, with feet of the best description, and his mares, as a rule, sure to produce. It need hardly be added that as soon as the young fillies (produce of the native mare and thoroughbred or coach horse) come in the rancher will require to change his sires. As to the product of this cross I believe it will pay to handle the yearling colts; halter breaking and stabling will tend to make them more tractable, and will also reduce the tendency of the prairie horses to thicken under the jaw. A certain length of time with the heads tied up and the colt compelled to feed up instead of down, in other words to pick the food from a rack instead of off the ground will help to prevent what I have called "the tendency to thicken under the jaw" of all prairie fed and bred horses. This cross is I believe the cheapest, and will, I think, in time produce the best horses on the prairies. I do not at all approve of crossing the native mares with any of the heavy draught horses, so far all the horses of that kind I have seen are nondescripts without either style, action or weight, with all the defects and none of the advantages of either sire or dam.

With a comparatively small sum native mares can be selected (say fifty to seventy-five dollars each) and good sires for (say five hundred dollars on the ranch) these last if they prove good stock getters will always be salable at a profit, and the colts from the very first will find ready sale as roadsters, cow horses, and, if the cross turns out as well as I believe it will, ultimately as saddle horses and drivers of the *best* quality. So much for the chances with native stock.

The great danger in stock raising is acclimatization. When eastern horses are first put upon the prairie our people call them pilgrims, and a weary pilgrimage to some of them it is, but in reality with a little care there is no danger of loss, and a proper looking after soon puts the pilgrim as much at its ease on the prairie as the native horse. So much has been written on horse raising that I have not much to say on this branch of the subject. Suffice it that from present appearance I should think that the breeding of large roadsters fit for carriage, cavalry, artillery or general purposes will be the most profitable in this country. What is required is a horse fit for any kind of work, from driving 50 miles a day, being ridden a like

distance, or ridden or driven a day's march in the service, or as police horses, or again as general purpose horses on our farms. Such horses we can raise more cheaply than most countries with all the advantage in the way of strength and soundness that our northern climate gives. Such horses are already being raised, and the rates to be obtained for them is so remunerative that there is every inducement for the investment of capital in the business.

Eastern Canada and British Columbia supply a large number of good sized fairly bred mares, but it is in the selection of sires that the rancher will have to exercise the greatest care. For these again I say thoroughbreds *first*—not the pick of the basket as *racers*, but big flat boned, deep shouldered, broad hocked fellows of large stock, such as go begging at Tattersalls or yearling sales in England, or are considered only roadsters in Kentucky, because they do not fill the eye of the trainers. Such horses are what we want and they can be got at reasonable figures, while they will transmit to their progeny all the courage of the best bred horses in the world. After these come the coachers, great big clean limbed fellows; and after them the shire horses with good size and fairly active; these to me seem the horses for our country, and with proper exercise of care and attention Alberta ought to be the great horse producing country of America.

Already we have about fifteen thousand horses of all classes in the territory, and we know that a great impetus was given to the business by the importation of some two hundred and fifty mares of all classes from Ireland by the "Sheep Creek Ranching Company," they at the same time bringing in several thoroughbred sires. In addition to these a great many stallions have been imported both from the old country and from Kentucky, as well as some from Montana and Oregon.

Another large horse ranche is the British American with about thirteen hundred head, all the sires being imported.

In addition to these are a great many ranchers scattered from the boundary line to the Red Deer, all more or less interested in the horse raising industry of Alberta.

Where is the market to come from? asks the would be rancher! Why it is practically unlimited, we have first our own country to supply, and for really good horses the home market is equal to the supply or nearly so. Then we have the world before us, but to secure the market we must see first that our horses are of the best quality, and then that they are *properly broken*, and as a first step to this as I have before said the colts must be handled young and properly bitted, in short they must be properly trained and the present rough and ready system done away with. It has cost the country too much already in the running of a large number of horses which, if rationally handled, would have made good useful animals. What else can be expected but the ruin of a high spirited semi-wild animal treated as many of our so called horsemen treat unbroken colts in this country. One thing is sure in order to secure an out market for our surplus stock a better system of breaking must be introduced.

Another thing that should be carefully considered by the rancher is his *brand*. Until the stock in this country is more closely confined to the owners run, a brand is and will be a necessity. As we all know some of the brands used are a positive blemish to a horse, and in the majority of cases it is an eyesore; to remedy this as far as possible should be the study of the rancher, and the smaller the mark can be made the better. Under any circumstances the eastern and English buyers will criticise it and declare it ruins the horse for their purposes; so it should be the ranchers study to have the smallest possible mark compatible with ease in identifying the animal.

In writing as I have I of course am swayed by my own predilections; no doubt many men as good or better judges of horse flesh than I am will think differently as to the class of animals that should be the standard on our prairies. My opinions are based upon the work I see the horses raised in this country are most likely to be called upon to do. Our first positive market in Alberta is to mount the police, and here I think we may properly point with pride to the quality of the horse ridden by that force, all native horses from fifteen to seventeen hands, strong, active and sound; at least I think I am justified in saying that in no regiment of cavalry in the service will you find so large a proportion of *strictly* sound horses. One notable fact being the extent to which the green horses, purchased yearly, furnish and thicken up, aye and rise upon the withers, as soon as the regular care-feeding and grooming usual in cavalry stables are given them. I may cite two notable instances of improvement—horses ridden by Col. Herchmer—first, and I had almost said peerless, his well known grey charger

whose accidental death every horseman in the territories regretted; and now the chestnut that has filled the grey's place; both of these horses when first purchased were inclined to be needy but both filled and furnished to a wonderful degree, so much so that I question, if even in Rotten Row a finer charger than the grey could be seen, and either of them would excite comment and notice all the world over, while, after all, they were only specimen horses; the same care will produce the same results as a rule in our bands of horses.

After the police are supplied the market here becomes general, but it is a good one; any team of even moderately good style is worth from \$250 to \$450 a pair, and as soon as we get our stocks up to supply the local demand then we have before us the great Eastern and European markets, which will absorb all the good horses we can raise. The fact being that the market is practically unlimited so long as we can supply horses up to the required standard.

It is a great thing to be able to assert that our stockmen are doing everything possible to bring up the size and quality of their bands, and the Canadians need have no fear but that our people will within a very few years be the largest producers of first class general purpose horses.

I incline to the belief that the further north you can bring either grain, fruit or animals to perfection the better it will be, so in the matter of horses. I believe that, taken band for band, more sound horses, with good, healthy constitutions, will be found in Alberta than in any country I am aware of as a horse raising region, let the comparison be as it may. You can cut out from a band of our horses any hundred you may choose and you will find ninety of them sound, with such feet and bellows as would delight any true horseman. *All that is wanting is to bring them up in size.* Great strides have been made in that direction, and with ordinary care I hope to see, within the next five years, that in all things our horses will take the lead.

To revert to what some of my friends term "my weakness," the (Cayuse) or native horse. When we hear of men riding to McLeod and back to Calgary (200 miles) in four days, on ponies scarcely fourteen hands high, and know that they thrive and do well on prairie grass alone, even although severely worked, coming out after the hardest summer's work in the succeeding spring, after rustling all winter for a living, fat and sound, every one must agree that I am writing of a notably tough and hardy race of animals. When we add to this that they are tractable and good lookers, I think that I am justified in hoping that by judicious and careful crossing a breed may be developed second to none in all the useful and most desirable qualities —of good tempers, good size and good looks, fit to go anywhere and do anything.

In conclusion, I would say I believe that in no country is there open a safer or better investment than horse ranching in Alberta. Everything required to start and maintain such a ranch can be got in without any difficulty, and within four years the investment ought, with ordinary care, to pay from twenty to sixty per cent. Men struggling to make a bare living out of the large capital invested in farming at home would here find themselves independent upon *their own* instead of *rented property after a very short probation*, and with half the labor would grow rich upon the investment of half the sum out of which in the old country, or even in old Canada, they eke out a living. Let no one imagine this follows as a matter of course. Constant care, with judicious management and eternal vigilance is the price of that great liberty, Success!

CA ARY, ALBERTA,  
January 9th, 1888.

### CATTLE RAISING IN ALBERTA.

" \* \* \* Slow winding through a level plain  
Of spacious meads with cattle sprinkled o'er."

To-day Alberta stands peerless among the cattle countries of the world; and the unknown land of a few years ago is now looked to as one of the greatest future supply depots of the British markets.

Although cattle had been introduced into Alberta a number of years back, it was not until 1881 that the foundation of the present great industry was laid. In that year the Cochrane Ranche Company brought over from Montana several thousand head which were placed on their lease west of Calgary under the management of Major Walker, and the following spring the

same company made extensive purchases, amounting to several thousand head. The North-West Cattle Company, under the management of Mr. Fred. Stinson, brought over in 1882 4,000 head. During the winter of 1882-3 the industry received a severe check. A large herd purchased by the Cochrane Company in the spring did not reach the ranche until late in the fall. A severe snow storm occurred and the cattle, footsore from the long drive and being on a strange range, drifted in various directions, and the season being a severe one, the losses were very heavy and alarmists were ready with theories in disparagement of the country; the practical minded and plucky were not, however, to be scared by a loss which could not be reasonably ascribed to any fault of the country or climate.

In 1883 the Oxley Ranche Company, the Waldron Ranche Company, the Sheep Creek Ranche Company, and other companies and wealthy individuals obtained leases of large tracts of land in Southern Alberta, and their managers proceeded to Montana and Idaho, purchased and brought over numerous bands of cattle and horses, and the fertile hills whose grasses had been lying waste since the disappearance of the great herd of Buffalos some six years previous, resounded with the rich music of the lowing herds. A number of men, with bands ranging from fifty to several thousands, embarked in the business, and the losses that winter were so light and the increase so great that fresh confidence was inspired, and many new companies were formed.

In March of 1884 it was estimated that the number of cattle in Alberta amounted to 40,000 head. The demand from the commencement for beef cattle was greater than the supply.

The Indian Department, North-West Mounted Police Force, and the thousands of men employed in the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, together with ever increasing numbers who come as visitors or settlers, swelled the consumption to such an extent as to tax to the utmost the beef supply of Alberta; and British Columbia and Montana were up to last year frequently called upon to supply beef steers for the Alberta market.

Now a new era has been reached, *Alberta has beef steers to ship*; and some interesting events in the history of the Alberta cattle industry have taken place; events which, in their results, have justly caused the Alberta cattlemen to feel "way up," to use a western phrase.

On the 10th of October last the North-West Cattle Company, of High River, shipped 700 fat steers from their range in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains to Montreal, which on being sold, realized the handsome average of \$57 per head; and this, too, for cattle fresh from the range, and which never received other shelter or feed than nature provides on the cattle ranges of Alberta. Taking into consideration the distance which those semi-wild animals had to travel, the worry and excitement which they suffered by being loaded and unloaded, and the loss of weight consequent thereon, the success of the venture was everything that could be desired; allowing the cost of shipment and all necessary expenses connected therewith to be \$11.00 per head, which is a high estimate, and the cost of raising the animals, 3 year old steers, at \$12.00, we find the above animals netted their owners \$34.00 clear of every expense. Many of the beasts were slaughtered in Montreal and the beef pronounced to be superior to any in the market—commanding the highest prices. What then will be the profits when a new system will be inaugurated? When Calgary and MacLeod will have their mammoth slaughter houses where the beefs off the ranges will be slaughtered and prepared for market, whence they will be transshipped by refrigerator cars and steamers to the great centres of consumption in Great Britain.

The other event above alluded to was the joint shipment of the Oxley and Winder ranches from their ranges on Willow Creek of 600 head of steers in the same month; these animals did not equal in size or condition those of the North-West Cattle Co., still their condition demonstrated beyond question the wonderful nutritive powers of the prairie grasses during summer and winter seasons. The cattle were all off the range and like the steers of the N. W. Cattle Co. had never received any care or attention. These cattle on reaching Montreal were divided into heads of 100 and upwards, and shipped respectively to Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow; and from what can be learned the prices realized are highly satisfactory to the owners.

These trial shipments have been watched with much interest by the ranchers of Alberta, and it is little to be wondered at, that they are in high spirits over the results.

That the present system of cattle raising is the most profitable one is more than doubtful. Each year's experience points out that there is more profit and economy in providing food and

shelter for them during the worst winter weather; in average winters, cattle will not require any feed, but severe seasons, such as those of 1882-3 and that of last year, will occur, and to insure against losses in such seasons feed and shelter are necessary. This year the majority of cattle owners have weaned their calves, and together with weak cows are feeding them a little hay, and the belief is gaining ground that the most profitable way of handling cattle is to be prepared to feed calves and cows in low condition during severe storms and thus avoid the risk of loss. The saying among stockmen is "that you cannot kill a steer with weather, as he will rustle always and keep fat during the worst season."

It has been conceded by the experienced stockmen of many countries that Alberta stands first as a cattle country in the abundance of its native grasses and plentiful supply of water and natural shelter, and comparing the losses on the Alberta ranges last year with those of the great cattle countries on the American side of the line, we have much to be thankful for; in Montana the losses during the winter of 1886-7, taking the whole of the range cattle into account, are estimated at from 60 to 75 per cent., and in many instances out of herds of several thousands but a few hundreds survived, and the industry may be said to have been paralyzed; in Alberta, while the weather was equally severe, the natural shelter of the ranges and the abundant supply of good grasses helped the cattle through, and the highest estimates do not place the losses at more than from 10 to 15 per cent. That even these losses should occur in a land where millions of tons of hay annually go to waste shows that judicious economy is not exercised in the cattle business. Attention, industry and intelligent labor are as necessary to success in this as in any other business.

The time will probably soon come when the range cattle will pass through the hands of the Alberta farmer before they reach the markets of the east; in other words, the farmer with the facilities he possesses here for having a cheap and abundant supply of fodder on hand will purchase steers from the large ranges in the fall, feed them through the winter on prairie hay and other fodder at a cost of from three to five dollars per head, and in the spring place them on the market in prime condition, making a handsome profit on his investment and labor.

In this and in many other ways (which it is not necessary for the purposes of this pamphlet to discuss) will the cattle industry of Alberta, at present in its infancy, increase to the volume and importance which nature in her bountiful supply of all the necessary elements has so liberally assisted it to attain.

There are now on the ranges of Alberta over 100,000 head of cattle, which at any season are neither fed nor sheltered; cattle, too, which in point of breeding, size and general condition, are equal, if not superior, to any range cattle in the world; for the Alberta rancher, injudicious as he may be in many points of management, is deserving of the greatest credit for the high grade which the range cattle have reached. Shorthorns, Hereford and Angus Bulls have been imported at great expense; but the interest on the outlay has indeed been both satisfactory and encouraging, and the young cattle of the Alberta ranges would compare favorably with the barnyard cattle of Great Britain. With a local market which annually consumes from eighteen to twenty thousand beeves and the demand ever increasing; with the great market of the world within easy access, with our natural advantages enticing the most experienced cattlemen from the American Territories and British Columbia to invest in the business here, who can say what will be the future of this industry which has grown with such gigantic strides in seven years.

To the capitalists and the farmer who intend engaging in the cattle business the writer would say: examine well into the resources and attractions of any other country in which you may be inclined to make a home; compare the advantages it offers with those offered by Alberta and having done so, there is little doubt but that you will make a happy and prosperous home for yourself under the shadow of the Rocky Mountains and assist in stocking the fertile valleys of fair Alberta.

### WHO SHOULD GO TO ALBERTA?

While Alberta offers inducements to industrious emigrants from all civilized nations, the class who are most likely to succeed here at this stage of the country's history, are men and families with some means, practical farmers; above all the dairy farmers of England, Ireland and Scotland,—to this class Alberta offers inducements which few, if any other countries, can offer.

A country whose laws are good, where life and property are as safe as in any part of the world; where the educational advantages are exceptionally good, and a land of bright sunny skies, and healthful climate; a new land where millions of acres of virgin soil await the industry of the new comer; free lands in the most progressive country of the age.

Markets good and growing better each year; a land promising wealth to the industrious and practical.

The capitalist will find in Alberta interesting and profitable fields for investments. It would be fruitless to attempt to point out the many channels for investments; here they are legion. Each day some new mineral discovery is made known; some new industry, promising large returns crops up; everywhere is the want of capital felt. The industries connected with cattle, sheep and horse raising, and dairy farming alone, are so great that imagination cannot grasp them, and the capitalist in Alberta has a large choice of pursuits all promising rich rewards.

To the labourer, the industrious farm labourer who will work contentedly for a few years until he acquires capital to start farming for himself, Alberta holds out bright prospects; if he is sober and economical, success brighter than his most sanguine expectations awaits him.

To the servant girls of the old country, and especially to girls accustomed to dairy work, we would say that Alberta needs your labor and industry, and offers you good wages to start with, and it rests largely with yourselves if you are long seeking employment for wages; new homes are springing up every day and progressive settlers are continually seeking good wives. The prospect that you may in the near future fill the honored position of a good wife to a worthy man, and be mistress of a comfortable, happy home of your own, should be an inducement to tempt good sensible women to come to Alberta.

The invalid will find in Alberta a bracing climate to recuperate his health. The virtues of its hot springs (mineral) are becoming universally extolled.

The sportsman, tourist, artist, botanist and geologist will find the mountains, forests, lakes and prairies of Alberta affording abundance of pleasure, interest and information; a large portion of North-Western Alberta is but little known, an almost unexplored country, and thus offers much to lovers of adventure and exploration.

For educated labour there are very few openings here. Clerks, salesmen and educated men of no particular calling, and who have no means, should not come; the supply already here, far exceeds the demand. The same may be said of men with a little capital seeking openings in the mercantile line. The country is overstocked with merchants; there are sufficient men engaged in merchandise here to supply all wants in that line for years to come; professional men with limited means expecting to make a living out of the practice of their profession are also likely to be disappointed. There are already more lawyers, doctors, engineers, surveyors, &c., here than there is profitable practice for. The country needs PRODUCERS and CAPITALISTS; men of idle and extravagant habits, men with no capital and who are unaccustomed to manual labor, will be likely to meet with hardship and disappointment.

Farmers with some capital, say from \$1,000 (£200) to \$3,000 (£600) will find this a good country providing always they are industrious, economical and practical. With \$3,000 a man with a family to help him can make a splendid start in dairy or mixed farming with every chance of growing wealthy in a very few years.

#### When to Come.

The settler coming to Alberta will be rather benefitted than otherwise by coming early in the spring; spring works, ploughing, &c., generally commences at the end of February, and seldom later than the middle of March. True after that date we have disagreeable cold spells; but it will be a decided advantage to the new comer to arrive in good season; as, if he intends entering into dairy farming he will be in a position to enjoy the full benefits of the season, and there is no reason why he should not make money from the first by butter making. It will be found that outside the supply of clothing for himself and family it is more profitable to purchase his requirements when he arrives at his destination. Money in his pocket will secure him the necessaries suitable to the country whereas a useless, though possibly a costly amount of baggage, which so many bring, is often found a hindrance in many ways. When you have thoroughly made up your mind to emigrate, purchase a ticket to Calgary if you

intend settling in the centre or northern part of Alberta, or to Lethbridge if you intend settling in Southern Alberta.

Do not believe any discouraging reports of the country which interested parties are so willing to circulate, more than a few have been deterred from coming here by false reports. The letters published in this pamphlet are written by practical people of good standing, resident here, and you cannot get a better idea of the country than by reading their letters over carefully. When you have done so, you will very likely be convinced that this is a good country and when you come, if you are of the right material, you will find success crown your labors.

### SCHOOLS.

The schools of the North West Territories are controlled and managed by a board of Education appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor, and consisting of eight members, five of whom are Protestants and three Catholics, and who hold office for two years.

A board of examiners examine and license teachers to teach in the schools.

When there are not less than four resident heads of families and ten children, between the ages of 5 and 16 inclusive, residing within a given area, any three of such residents may petition the Lieutenant-Governor to have such area erected into a school district; such district is managed by three trustees elected by the ratepayers, whose term of office lasts 3 years, 2 years and 1 year respectively.

The duties of the trustees are to select a school site, build a schoolhouse, acquire furnishing, engage qualified teachers and manage the school generally, including the selection of all the books, maps and globes to be used from the list authorized by the board of education.

Every school organized as above receives from the Territories school fund annual grants varying from \$200 to \$350, according to the grade and number of the teachers employed, and a further grant, based upon the attendance and proficiency obtained by the children.

Further moneys required for the maintenance of the school are obtained by taxing all the real and personal property within the school district, subject, however, to certain exemptions, amongst which is personal property to the value of \$300 and household effects of every kind, books and wearing apparel.

The trustees have power, with the sanction of the ratepayers, to borrow money on debentures for the erection of the schoolhouse.

(Section 11 and 29) In every township 1280 acres are set aside by the Government for the benefit of school purposes.

The school ordinance directs the teaching of reading, writing, orthography, arithmetic, geography, grammar, History of England and Canada and English literature, and gives the trustees power to authorize the teaching of such other subjects as may be deemed necessary.

Children, whose parents or guardians are ratepayers of any school district, are taught in the school free of charge.

Inspectors are appointed by the board, and to each is allotted a certain number of districts. Their duties are to visit at least once in each term the schools under their charge and examine into every department and make a full report to the board.

Under this well devised and beneficent system a sound education is obtained at a minimum cost, and so well is it appreciated that as soon as settlers are in a position to do so, they make use of it; hence it is hard to find a location without a school within easy distance.

Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney, in his speech at Calgary on the 7th January, 1888, states "that we had now 106 Protestant public schools, 4 public schools, 17 Roman Catholic public schools and 6 Roman Catholic separate schools, or in all 134 schools." This year he estimates that we would have at least 156 schools with 4,500 pupils. In 1882 \$2,204 was spent for school purposes, whilst last year the amount was \$42,507, and this year he had asked from the Dominion Government (with every probability of getting it) for \$63,229, to be expended in education in the North-West in 1888.

The settler coming to Alberta need not fear but that he will have every opportunity of giving his children a sound education at a very small cost.

## LABOUR AND WAGES.

During the spring and summer of 1887 the demand for labour throughout Alberta was brisk, owing to the rapid progress of the country. In Calgary and vicinity the demand was far in excess of the supply. Carpenters, masons and lumbermen were in special demand on account of the numerous building operations under way. That the demand will increase each year is only reasonable to suppose; yet, until the country is more fully developed it would be unwise to encourage the coming of skilled labour of any kind, excepting that of carpenters, masons, plasterers, brickmakers and lumbermen. Men coming here should be capable and willing to do work of any kind until they find openings at their own calling. Men accustomed to city work and special lines only, should not come until they first communicate with employers here as to the demand for their special labour. Each year will make fresh openings, new railways will be constructed, manufacturing industries will spring into existence, the pioneer of the present will develop into the employer of the future. The great mineral and lumber resources will gradually and surely be developed and open up fields for labour almost unthought of now. The cheese and dairy farmer, the wool grower and the cattle and horse rancher will all contribute to increase the labour market. The demand for female servants, domestics, nursery girls and girls accustomed to dairy and farm work is and will continue to be, good at fair wages.

In all branches of labour the lack of capital for the development of the resources of the country is the only check to a greater demand.

The following are about the average wages paid throughout Alberta during the past season, 1887:-

General labourers, per day, without board.....	\$2 00	to	\$2 50
Farm labourers, per day, with board.....	.....		1 50
Farm labourers, per month, with board.....	25 00		35 00
Female farm servants, per month.....	15 00		20 00
Female domestics "	15 00		20 00
Nursery girls "	8 00		15 00
Hotel girls "	20 00		25 00
Cooks, female "	25 00		40 00
Cooks, male "	50 00		60 00
Cooks on ranches "	40 00		50 00
Masons, per day.....	4 00		5 00
Bricklayers, per day.....	4 00		5 50
Plasterers "	3 50		4 00
Carpenters "	2 75		3 50
Smiths "	2 00		2 50
Wheelwrights "	2 00		2 50
Coal miners, per ton .....	0 80		1 00
Mill hands, per month.....	26 00		75 00
Saddlers, per day .....	.....		.....
Printers, first class men, per week.....	.....		18 00
Bootmakers, per day .....	.....		.....
Painters "	2 00		3 00
Tailors "	.....		2 50
Gardeners, per month.....	30 00		40 00
Teamsters, without board, per month.....	40 00		50 00

There is and has been a dearth of good, practical farm laborers throughout Alberta. Good axemen and mill hands are always in fair demand. A number of gardeners could find employment at fair wages, and the demand will continue to increase. The supply of good carpenters, stonemasons, bricklayers and plasterers has never equalled the demand, the general complaint amongst employers being that they cannot obtain sober, industrious men; of course, there are exceptions, but as a rule the above class of tradesmen have been a floating population, making money quickly, and spending time and money extravagantly. To good tradesmen of the classes named who are of sober, industrious habits, Alberta offers excellent chances of success. Men of intemperate habits will find those habits very costly ones in the far west—they cannot

succeed here; and further, Alberta has no use for them; extravagance and lack of industry is the bane of the laboring classes here; they want to wear their golden spurs before they win them.

### FORM OF GOVERNMENT.

The government of the Territories is modelled on the Provincial form, but the Territorial Legislature has not yet been given all the functions of a provincial assembly. The North-West Council, which meets once a year at Regina, has power to legislate for the entire Territories upon nearly all the subjects upon which the legislature of any of the provinces can legislate; but it cannot introduce bills for appropriating the territorial revenues, and it cannot alter its own constitution.

The annual grant made by the Dominion Government to the Territories is based upon estimates made by the Lieut.-Governor. The purposes for which the grant is made are thus a matter of agreement between the Lieut.-Governor and the Government of the day at Ottawa. So much is granted for school purposes, so much for the cost of carrying on the government and legislation in the North-West, and so much for the public works and miscellaneous matters.

The amount granted for these purposes last year was some \$96,000. After the expenditure for schools is deducted the balance is devoted by the Lieut.-Governor in accordance with his previous estimate to the expenses stated above, and its public works. The amount devoted to schools is very large in proportion to the whole sum, and is distributed between the schools of all denominations according to a well devised plan designed by the North-West Council. The amounts contributed to other purposes depend upon such recommendations as the Lieut.-Governor makes and the Dominion grants.

In addition to the annual Dominion grant the Territories have a small revenue derived from the issue of auctioneers, legal, medical and other licenses in the Territories. This amounts to some \$12,000 or \$14,000 a year, and is divided equally amongst the elected members of the North-West Council for expenditure in their respective constituencies on mending the roads, making bridges and so forth.

The North-West Council is partly an elected and partly an appointed body. It was constituted by Act of Parliament in 1873, and held its first session in 1877 at Livingstone, Swan River.

The first Council consisted of the Lieut.-Governor and three appointed members, viz:—Stipendiary Magistrates Richardson and Ryan, and Col. Macleod, Commissioner of the North-West Mounted Police.

In 1878 the Council met at Battleford; Paschal and Breland, an appointed member being added to it. In 1879 another session was held, consisting of the same members.

In 1880 the Dominion Parliament, by amending the previous North-West Territories Act, gave the Lieut.-Governor power to erect electoral districts in the North-West, and in accordance with this the Lieut.-Governor in November of the same year erected three electoral divisions, the qualifications of each being according to its Acts, a thousand persons to a thousand square miles. In February, 1881, the first elections were held, and Lawrence Clark, Esq., Hudson Bay Company's Chief Factor, was elected for Lorne, and took his seat in the Council that year. Since then thirteen new electoral divisions have been erected, and the North-West Council at present consists of 20 members, 14 being elected and 6 appointed.

It is not considered that the North-West Council, as at present constituted, will be continued beyond the next session of the Dominion Parliament.

At the last session of the Council, held at Regina, the members sent a memorial to Ottawa praying that the appointed members should be done away with, and such additional power given the Council as would give it the sole direction of the annual Dominion grant. The result of this would be that the Council would virtually be placed on the same footing as the legislative assemblies of Ontario and Manitoba.

### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

Within the past year a great change has taken place in the administration of justice in the Territories. Before that time justice was administered throughout the country by four stipendiary magistrates, who had equal jurisdiction over all the Territories, but who divided

the country into districts for the purpose of convenience. Each stipendiary appointed his clerk, while one sheriff, appointed by the Dominion, and under whom were five deputies, had the whole North-West for his shirealty. Courts were held three or four times a year both for civil and criminal matters. Justices of the peace were the only other law officers. From the decisions of the stipendiary courts there were no appeals except to the Court of Queen's Bench, Manitoba, and only then in civil cases on torts where the amount exceeded \$500, and in cases of contract where the amount sued for was over \$1000. In criminal matters there was an appeal in certain cases.

The great strides made by the country, the increase of population, and especially the number coming in from the eastern provinces, brought the people in some cases in conflict with the almost autocratic powers of the stipendiary magistrates. This was notably the case in Calgary and caused so much trouble, that the Government felt called upon to make a change in the system. Accordingly, in 1886 a new system was introduced by which the stipendiaries were abolished and a Supreme Court erected, similar in constitution and practise to the Superior Courts of the provinces, and presided over like them by judges appointed for life.

Five judges were appointed, one for each of the five judicial districts, into which the North-West Territories are now divided as well as a clerk and sheriff for each district, all appointed by the Dominion. The new Act came into force on the 18th of February, 1886, and in the same year the rules of procedure of the court were framed by the North-West Council.

There is now an appeal from the judgment or order of the court presided over by a single judge, without the special leave of the court or judge whose order or judgment is in question, wherever a title to real estate or some interest therein, or the validity of a patent is affected, or where the matter is in controversy. An appeal in matters of contract must exceed \$500, and in matters of tort \$200. The appeal is to the court en Banc, which meets at Regina twice a year, and is presided over by the five judges of the Supreme Court. A further appeal lies to the Supreme Court at Ottawa.

The Territorial rules of procedure are founded on the English Judicature Acts, although numerous sections are incorporated from the Ontario and Nova Scotia Judicature Acts. The bar consists of lawyers who have taken out Territorial certificates as advocates. By the North-West Ordinance, No. 10, of 1885, the following persons and no others shall be entitled to recover or receive any fee or reward for suing out process, defending actions, conducting proceedings and practising before the courts of civil jurisdiction in the Territories on behalf of any other person or persons or corporations:—

Any person who has been duly called to the bar of any of the courts in Her Majesty's Dominions, or who has been admitted to practise as an attorney, advocate or solicitor in any of the said courts, and who is actually residing in the Territories at the time of the passing of this ordinance; any person who hereafter becomes a resident of the Territories; any person who has been actually and continuously engaged in the practise of law in the said Territories for the two years immediately prior to the passing of this ordinance, and who has studied law in a law office within Her Majesty's Dominions for at least three years; any subject of Her Majesty of the age of twenty-one years, actually residing in the Territories at the time of the passing of this ordinance, who shall furnish to the judge of the district within which he is residing satisfactory evidence of good character, and that he has been practising law in the North-West Territories prior to the passing of this ordinance, and who shall, within twelve months from the passing thereof, present himself for and pass an examination to the satisfaction of such judge, and a duly enrolled advocate of the Territories to be named by such judge, on the general principles of the common law and equity jurisprudence, the British North American Act and amendments thereto, the Statutes of the Dominion and the Ordinances of the North-West Territories, and shall subscribe and take before such judge the oath hereinafter prescribed; any subject of Her Majesty of the age of twenty-one years, actually residing in the Territories, who shall furnish to the judge of the district in which he is residing satisfactory evidence of good character, and that he has pursued the study of law for at least three years, and has been during such time articled to and actually engaged in, the study and practise of law in the office of a duly enrolled advocate in the North-West Territories; and said articles and any assignment thereof shall be filed with the clerk of the District Court within which such advocate resides, within one month after the execution thereof, together with an affidavit verifying such execution, and shall pass an examination to the satisfaction of such judge and a duly enrolled

advocate of the Territories, to be named by such judge, on the subjects specified in the preceding sub-section, and shall take and subscribe to the oath hereinafter prescribed.

All such persons shall be officers of the several courts of the Territories, and shall be known and designated as advocates of such courts, and shall be entitled and empowered to act in any court of civil jurisdiction in the North-West Territories.

### MINERALS.

That Alberta possesses untold wealth in her immense mineral deposits is no longer a matter of speculation. For years past gold in paying quantities has been found on the banks and bars of the North Saskatchewan River. The discoveries made last fall in the vicinity of Prairie Creek are full of importance, and the locality will no doubt ere long be the scene of much mining activity. Gold colours are found in almost every stream and river in Alberta, and as the country is thoroughly prospected there is every reason to suppose that rich finds will be discovered. Large veins of galena have been located which are pronounced by experts to contain a large percentage of silver. Capital alone is wanting to make them treasures of wealth to the country. Copper ore in enormous quantities has also been found said to contain 60 per cent. of pure copper. Iron ore has been discovered in various parts of Alberta. A forty-foot seam of hematite iron said to contain 67 per cent. of iron exists at the base of Storm Mountain quite close to the Canadian Pacific Railway line, and other large seams are known to exist in the Macleod District in the vicinity of Crow's Nest Pass.

As to the quantity of the coal deposits of Alberta it is impossible to form any estimate. The coal mines already discovered are of sufficient extent to supply Canada with fuel for all time. At Lethbridge one and a half million dollars have been already expended in developing the coal mines of one company. At Anthracite over one hundred thousand dollars have been expended in opening up the hard coal deposits of that vicinity. Hard coal has recently been discovered at Edmonton, semi-anthracite at Rosebud, anthracite near Canmore, and vast deposits in Crow's Nest Pass in the southern district.

Soft coal is so plentiful that the certainty of a cheap fuel supply is assured to Albertans for all time. There is hardly a township in this vast country but has a deposit of coal.

The great mineral industries are still in their infancy. Immense fortunes are hidden in the earth awaiting the hand of prospector and capitalist, and rich will be the reward of those who take the first advantages of the privileges now open to all.

### CLIMATE.

Alberta possesses a climate as healthful and invigorating as any on the continent, and as a health resort is fast winning high praise from healthy settlers. The record of the daily temperature, extending over a period of four years, which has been faithfully reported by S. W. Shaw, Esq., of Fish Creek, and which appears in another portion of the pamphlet, is full of interest to those intending to settle here. It shows that the spring season commences usually early in March, that the average winter is between forty and sixty days in length and that summer frosts are not so frequent or destructive as many believe them to be.

It would be impossible to give one a correct idea of the climate: to tell of its advantages and its disadvantages would be a long and hopeless task. Bright, sunny days, and nights of limpid brightness are prominent features to which all are willing to yield praise. The disagreeable features are the sudden changes from heat to cold and *vice versa*. In winter the thermometer may be several degrees below zero in the forenoon, and in the afternoon a south wind (Chinook) may spring up and in a few hours the temperature will be 40 or 50 degrees above zero, and for days, often weeks, in the winter season, Albertans enjoy summer weather, consequent on these south-west warm winds. Usually cold weather sets in about the first of January, and continues with intervals of Chinook weather, until the beginning of March, when the real cold weather is past. After that time cold snaps, generally of but a few days' duration, often occur.

The rainy season extends from the middle of May to the end of June; after that date thunder showers are the only rains usual. The fall weather in Alberta is simply delightful: bright, crisp and bracing.

That the climate is good is vouched for by the robust healthfulness of the people; and that our winters are short and generally mild is proven by the tens of thousands of cattle and horses which thrive uncared for on the prairies and foot-hills during all seasons.

**GAME.**

The sportsman will find in Alberta large and interesting fields wherein to satisfy his desires.

The numerous rivers and mountain lakes abound in fish. Antelope are still plentiful on the prairies; and deer, big horn and mountain goat, are to be found in the mountain parks and mountain heights in the more remote districts. Bear, moose and elk afford sport to the adventurous. A small herd of wood buffalo are said to roam in the extreme north-western portion of the district, and no doubt the Government will take steps to have them protected. The great buffalo herds which roamed the plains in years past are no longer in existence.

The prairie lakes swarm with wild ducks, geese and other water fowl, and prairie chickens are plentiful along the foot hills. A list of the birds, quadrupeds and fish of Alberta will be found in another part of this pamphlet.

**RIVERS OF ALBERTA.**

Smoky, Athabasca, La Biche, Beaver, Little Beaver, Owl, Towti-now-Sipi, McLeod, Paddle, Pembina, Brazeau, North Saskatchewan, Battle, Baptiste, Clearwater, Lob Stick, Blind Man, Medicine, Red Deer, Little Red Deer, Rosebud, Bow, Elbow, Kanomaskis, Ghost, Spray, High River, Little Bow, Old Man's, Waterton, Belly, Milk, St. Mary's, White Earth.

**PRINCIPAL CREEKS.**

Two Creeks, Sandy, Miry, Red Clay, Smoky, Egg, Deep, Beaver, Sturgeon, Red Water, Sucker, Steep, Old Man's, Pipestone, Bigstone, White Mud, Conjuring, Meeting, Pigeon Lake Creek, Beaver, Paint Earth, Red Willow, two Beaver Dam Creeks, Prairie, Dog Pond Creek, Big Hill, Jumping Pond Creek, Nose, Savasse-Perry, Arrowwood, Lone Pine, Willow, Bull Pond Creek, Dead Fish, two Berry Creeks, One Tree, Crowfoot, Fish, Pine, Snake, Sheep, Tongue, Mosquito, Willow Front, Middle Pound, Crow Lodge, Pincher, Crooked, Lees, Prairie Bluff, Red.

**LARGE LAKES.**

Lac La Biche, Beaver, Birch, Gull, Whitefish, Goodfish, Floating Stone, White Earth, Long Cache, Saddle, Egg, Smoky, Dirt, Lake of the Isle, Lac St. Anne, Round, White Whale, Big, St. Joseph, Hay, Island, Bittern, Bear, Pigeon, Battle, Gull, Red Deer, Buffalo, Swan, Quill, Sullivan, Devil's, Emerald, Dead Horse, Snake, Waterton, Lees, Neidigris.

**LUMBER.**

The forests of Alberta, extending along the base of the mountains from the American boundary to the extreme north, offer every inducement to the capitalist to engage in the lumber industry in the far west. The numerous rivers and streams running from the mountains to the great plains afford a cheap and ready mode of transit to the centres of population. A list of the woods of Alberta is given in this pamphlet, but while hard woods are included they do not exist in any quantity, and cannot be looked to as a source of revenue. The principal woods are the Spruce and Douglas fir. The last few years has seen much progress made in the lumbering industry, and no doubt during the coming years many millions will be derived from this resource alone. The settlers in Alberta will find keen competition in the lumber market, and reasonable prices for manufactured lumber as the result.

**WOODS.**

White Spruce, Red Pine (Douglas Fir), Black Spruce, Red Spruce, Birch, a species of Hemlock Fir (Engelmann), White Birch, Larch (*lasiocarpus*), White Cedar, Balm of Gilead, Poplar, Moose Wood (*Viburnum*), Aspen, Ash Leafed Maple, Ash, Elm, Tamarac, Cottonwood, Cypress Pine.

## WILD FRUITS.

Currant, Gooseberries, Raspberries, Savasseberries, Huckleberries, Cranberries, Cherries, Plum, Blueberries, Strawberries, and several other varieties of wild berries.

## WILD FLOWERS.

Nature has showered on this land her choicest gifts. The countless charms which make this earth so fair and beautiful are here in rich profusion; and as of old when God first created the world "behold it is very good." Not the least of its attractions are the wild flowers, which adorn the prairies from early spring to autumn, ever changing yet ever lovely. From the pale lavender crocus, which in Nature's floral book is the opening leaf, pushing its way through the brown earth and bursting into a lovely flower to gladden weary wintered hearts, telling them spring is here, to the golden rod which lingers after the other flowers are "faded and gone."

Our native flora have not yet been named or classified, and therefore only a few similar to those in Eastern Canada or the Old Country can be mentioned; but, indeed, had we the names they are of such infinite variety that a description of them would fill a book. What a treasury of pleasurable knowledge is here for the botanist. Among our first flowers is that little home plant, the blue violet; endeared to us all by the reminiscences it brings of other lands; June comes and with it the rose, that flower of flowers. Everywhere over the prairie is to be seen this little dwarf bush with its wealth of bright blossoms breathing their delicious perfume into the air; these are mostly bright crimson single roses, but there are some both single and double of the most delicate blush tint. The charm of this plant does not cease with the flower. In the autumn the foliage assumes a deep carmine and orange-brown coloring, this and its bright scarlet berries make it a most attractive shrub. The months of June and July abound in flowers innumerable of every hue; the pale anemone, the bluebell, perfect in shape and colour, the cyclamen, the exquisitely lovely lupins blue, pink and white, the first quite common, the remaining two more rare; banks purple with wild thyme, the air fragrant with its spicy aroma. The most brilliant of all our flowers is that elegant floral gem, the orange-red lily, which grows here in myriads, acres upon acres all ablaze with its glory.

"O lilies, upturned lilies?  
Tall urns of blinding beauty,  
As vestals pure they hold  
In each a blaze of scarlet  
Half blotted out with gold."

Growing among the lilies, and making a most pleasing contrast, is a flower for which I have no name, but, for its beauty and the great number which grow here, deserves notice. It is about 18 inches high, the stem crowned with a cluster of small wax-like flowers of creamy whiteness. From the beginning to the end of the season are yellow flowers of every variety, from the light maize to the bright orange; indeed yellow is the prevailing color, from which may be mentioned one resembling both in form and color the beautiful laburnum, and another the gorgeous and extremely beautiful sunflower. This flower, which grows a foot or rather more above the ground, and is three or four inches in diameter, has a circle of golden leaves extending like rays from a centre of rich reddish brown; its coloring is superb, even the most aesthetic taste would be charmed with this wild beauty of the prairie.

These are a very few flowers culled from the vast multitude which everywhere bedeck our favored land.

"Flowers so blue and golden,  
Stars that in earth's firmament do shine."

## BIRDS NATIVE OF ALBERTA.

Western Grebe, Horned Grebe, Loon, Western Gull, American White Pelican, Red-Breasted Merganser, Mallard, Gadwall Widgeon, Green-Winged Teal, Blue-Winged Teal,

Shoveller, Pintail Wood Duck, Red-Head Duck, Canvas-Back Duck, American Slap Duck, American Golden-Eye Buffle Head, Old Squaw, Velvet Scoter, Turf Scoter, Ruddy Duck, Lesser Snow Goose, Greater Snow Goose, Canada Goose, Brant, Barnach Goose, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Whooping Crane, Sand Hill Crane, American Coot, Red Phalarope, American Aweet, Black-Necked Stilt, European Snipe, Willow Snipe, Stilt Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Red-Backed Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Sanderling, Marbled Godwit, Greater Yellow Leg, Yellow Leg, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet Barhamain Sandpiper, Longbilled Curlew, Hudsonian Curlew, Black-Billed Plover, Golden Plover, Killdeer, Semipalmated Plover, Wilson Plover, Mountain Partridge, Dusky Grouse, Canada Grouse, Ruffed Grouse, Willow Ptarmigan, Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse, Sage Grouse, Mourning Dove, Marsh Hawk, Sharp Skinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, American Goshawk, European Buzzard, Red-tailed Hawk, Western Red Tail, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Broad-Winged Hawk, Rough-Legged Hawk, Ferguson's Rough-Leg Hawk, Golden Eagle, Gray Sea Eagle, Bald Eagle, Duck Hawk, Pigeon Hawk, American Sparrow Hawk, American Osprey, American Barn Owl, American Long-eared Owl, American Short-eared Owl, Barred Owl, Great Gray Owl, Rocky Mountain Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Western Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Hawk Owl, Pigmy Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Three-toed Woodpecker, Yellow-Billed Sap Sucker, Pilated Woodpecker, Red-billed Woodpecker, Golden-fronted Woodpecker, Night Hawk, Western Night Hawk, Ruby-throated Humming Bird, Black-chinned Humming Bird, King Bird, Ash-throated Fly Catcher, Olive-sided Fly Catcher, Yellow-billed Fly Catcher, Least Fly Catcher, Prairie Horned Lark, American Magpie, Canada Jay, American Raven, American Crow, North-West Crow, Starling, Cowbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Meadow Lark, Western Meadow Lark, Baltimore Oriole, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Grackle, Bronzed Grackle, Evening Grosbeak, Pine Grosbeak, American Crossbill, White-winged Crossbill, American Goldfinch, Snowflake (Snow Bunting), Western Vesper Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Clay Colored Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Black-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Martin, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Bank Swallow, Bohemian Waswing, Cedar Waswing, Northern Loggerhead Shrike, Orange-crowned Warbler, Olive Warbler, Black Poll Warbler, Pine Warbler, American Dipper, Catbird, Rock Wren, House Wren, Long-billed Marsh Wren, Chickadee, Russet-backed Thrush, American Robin, Bluebird, Western Bluebird, Mountain Bluebird.

NOTE.—I am indebted to Mr. J. W. Cockle, Taxidermist, of Calgary, for the above list of birds native of Alberta. Mr. Cockle informs me that they have all, as well as some other species, the names of which he does not know, come under his personal observation.

### QUADRUPEDS NATIVE OF ALBERTA.

Antelope, Elk, Moose, Cariboo, Black-tailed Deer, White-tailed Deer (Virginian Deer), Mountain Goat, Mountain Sheep, Big Bear, Brown, Cinnamon, Black, Grizzly, Wood Buffalo, Badger, Beaver, Ermine, Red Fox, Kit Fox, Black Fox, Fisher, Lynx, Martin, Musk Rat, Mink, Otter, Skunk, Black Timber Wolf, Grey Timber Wolf, Grey Prairie Wolf, Coyote, Jack Rabbit, Swamp Rabbit, Red Porcupine, Black Porcupine, Puma or Mountain Lion, a species of Racoons, Grey Gopher, Striped Gopher, Red Squirrel, Flying Squirrel, Chipmunk, Bush-tailed Rat and Rock Whistler.

### FISH.

Salmon Trout, Mountain Trout, Bull Trout, Grayling, Goldeye, White Fish, Red-finned Suckers, Pike, Pickerel, Sturgeon, Catfish, Tolebee.

### DISTANCES.

DISTANCE FROM CALGARY.	MILES.
Montreal.....	2,262
Winnipeg.....	839
Morley.....	41

Banff.....	80
Silverton.....	88
Summit of Rockies.....	116
Columbia River.....	166
Selkirk Range.....	216 and 234
Kamloops.....	410
Vancouver.....	644

## PLACES SOUTH.

Fish Creek.....	8
Pine Creek.....	15
Sheep Creek.....	25
High River.....	35
Mosquito Creek.....	51
Macleod.....	102
Pincher Creek.....	132

## PLACES NORTH.

Red Deer.....	100
Rocky Mountain House.....	130
Battle River.....	150
Edmonton.....	202
Saskatchewan.....	219
Lac La Biche.....	378
Athabasca Landing.....	302

## POST OFFICES AND POST MASTERS IN ALBERTA.

POST MASTER.	POST OFFICE.	DISTRICT.
Beaupre, V. J.....	Gleichen.....	Calgary District
Begg, R. A.....	Dauion.....	"
Campston, Mrs. S. A.....	Canmore.....	"
Gaetz, Leonard.....	Red Deer.....	"
Holmes, W.....	High River.....	"
Johnson, Jas.....	Cochrane.....	"
King, G. C.....	Calgary.....	"
McDougall, Miss R.....	Millwood.....	"
McMillan, J. A.....	Okotoks.....	"
Morgan, A.....	Anthracite.....	"
O'Donohue, R. B. C.....	National Park.....	"
Shaw, S. W.....	Midnapore.....	"
Stinson, Mrs. M. G.....	Pekisko.....	"
Watson S.....	Pine Creek.....	"
Woodworth, F.....	Banff.....	"
Campbell, D. J.....	Macleod.....	Macleod District
Craig, J. H.....	New Orley.....	"
Greenwood, H. F.....	Lethbridge.....	"
Schofield, J. H.....	Pincher Creek.....	"
Trollenger, Jos.....	Mosquito Creek.....	"
Whitney, A. J.....	Ft. Kipp.....	"
Aylwin, J. E.....	Hollbrooke.....	Edmonton District
McLachlan.....	Pakan.....	"
McKenny, H. W.....	St. Albert.....	"
Osborne, A. W.....	Edmonton.....	"
Simson.....	Clover Bar.....	"

## CUSTOMS REVENUE.

Amount collected for the six months ending December 31st, 1887, output, \$7,556.36.  
 Amount collected for dutible for the six months ending 31st December, 1887, \$27,899.00.  
 Amount of free goods for the six months ending December 31st, 1887, \$9,217.00.

TABLE SHOWING APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF CATTLE, HORSES  
AND SHEEP IN ALBERTA, JANUARY, 1888.

NAME.	ADDRESS.	CATTLE.	HORSES.
Morley Settlers.....	Millward.....	1,400	200
Mount Royal Ranche.....	".....	310	20
Settlers on Cochrane Lease.....	".....	700	100
Bell, Irving & Kerfoot.....	Cochrane.....	200	50
B. A. Ranche Co.....	".....	...	1,300
F. Bredin.....	".....	100	20
Campbell & Harkness.....	Calgary.....	...	600
Other Settlers on Elbow.....	".....	200	100
Brecon Ranche.....	".....	...	9
Gen. Strange.....	Gleichen.....	1,600	500
Robert Hamilton.....	Sheep Creek.....	200	30
McHnigh Bros.....	High River.....	400	50
A. Goldfinch.....	".....	100	20
Sheep Creek Ranche Co.....	Sheep Creek.....	2,300	1,000
North-West Cattle Co.....	High River.....	9,000	600
Jiggs Bros.....	".....	600	150
J. Lunch.....	".....	400	150
Skrine.....	".....	600	20
B. M. Godsall.....	Calgary.....	200	10
J. Quirk.....	High River.....	700	30
Sullivan.....	".....	400	20
High River Ranche Co.....	".....	400	350
Courtney.....	".....	100	5
Douglas & Ross.....	".....	600	50
Sampson.....	Mosquito Creek.....	1,600	25
Powder Ranche Co.....	".....	7,000	200
Alexander.....	".....	600	25
C. C. Ranche.....	".....	800	20
Cross Bros.....	".....	600	125
Hull & Frounce.....	Calgary.....	800	300
Oxley Ranche Co.....	Macleod.....	9,000	100
Winder Ranche Co.....	".....	2,000	300
J. Lynson.....	New Oxley.....	200	100
Bauce.....	".....	100	15
Other Settlers in Porcupine Hills.....	".....	500	100
Glengary Ranche Co.....	".....	1,200	30
Ross & McDermid.....	New Oxley.....	600	100
Trefail & Parcely Ranche Co.....	".....	300	30
Collingham & Leeds Ranche.	New Oxley.....	...	100
J. R. Cray & Sons.....	".....	100	30
C. Ryan.....	Macleod.....	150	5
Geo. Emerson.....	High River.....	1,000	80
Gregg.....	" thoroughbred	70	5
C. Knox.....	Herefords.....	...	100
Broderick Bros.....	High River.....	150	10

		CATTLE.	HORSES.
J. McFarlane.....	Macleod .....	300	5
Gallagher.....	" .....	250	5
Dunbar & Sons.....	" .....	....	100
Manual Bros.....	" .....	400	30
Grier Bros.....	" .....	150	20
Waldron Ranche.....	" .....	11,000	250
Alberta Ranche.....	" .....	1,100	60
Stewart & Chester .....	Pimpher Creek.....	2,000	150
Godsall.....	" .....	800	30
Lee's.....	" .....	600	30
Garnett Bros.....	" .....	400	250
J. Jones.....	" .....	....	100
Inderwist.....	" .....	1,200	30
Geddes & Jenkins.....	" .....	....	200
A. M. Morden.....	" .....	200	20
Brook & Alfrey.....	" .....	900	50
Other Settlers.....	" .....	2,000	300
Cochrane Cattle Co.....		9,500	200
Berry .....		100	5
St. Louis Cattle Co.....	Lethbridge.....	5,000	200
J. G. Baker.....	Macleod .....	3,000	600
Oster Harmond & Nanton .....	Lethbridge.....	1,200	100
Lee's Creek and Mary's Settlement.....		500	100
Farmers in Calgary District.....	Calgary .....	3,000	1,000
Farmers in Red Deer and Battle River, Edmonton and North.....	Edmonton .....	7,000	5,000
Increase 1887.....		13,000	1,500
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		110,870	17,469

## APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF SHEEP IN ALBERTA, JAN., 1888.

Lafferty & Martin.....	Calgary .....	4,000
B. A. Ranche Co.....	Cochrane .....	8,000
J. White.....	" .....	3,000
Brecon Ranche Co.....	Bow River .....	2,000
Other small bands.....	Calgary .....	7,000
Travist & Winter's.....	" .....	2,000
F. Pace.....	Standoff .....	300
Edmonton & North.....		500
Beveridje Bros.....		1,500
McPherson .....		1,400
Increase.....		10,000
		<hr/>
		39,700

## MARKET REPORT.

CALGARY, Alberta, January, 1888.

Butter, fresh, Alberta, 1st quality.....	35 cts. to 40 cts. per lb.
" " " 2nd "	30 cts. to 35 cts. "
Butter, packed.....	25 cts. to 30 cts. "
Butter, kegs.....	22 cts. to 25 cts. "
Cheese.....	20 cts. to 25 cts. "

Eggs, Alberta, fresh.....	35 cts. to 50 cts. per doz.
" imported, packed.....	25 cts. to 30 cts. "
Cornmeal.....	4 cts. per lb.
Oatmeal.....	4 cts. "
Flour.....	\$2.30 to \$2.80 per 100 lbs.
Beans.....	5 cts. to 7 cts. per lb.
Potatoes.....	60 cts. to 90 cts. per bush.
Turnips.....	50 cts. to 70 cts. "
Onions.....	7 cts. to 10 cts. per lb.
Celery.....	15 cts. per bunch.
Rhubarb.....	8 cts. to 10 cts. per lb.
Cabbages.....	5 cts. per lb.
Cauliflower.....	10 cts. to 25 cts. each.
Lard.....	12½ cts. to 20 cts. per lb.
Fish, Salmon and Trout, fresh.....	20 cts. per lb.
Pork, Carcass.....	9 cts. to 11 cts. per lb.
" Fresh Roasts.....	12½ cts. to 15 cts. "
" Hams.....	17 cts. to 20 cts. "
" Bacon.....	12½ cts. to 15 cts. "
Mutton, Carcass.....	8 cts. to 10 cts. "
" Legs and Chop.....	15 cts. to 18 cts. "
Beef, Side or Carcass.....	8 cts. to 11 cts. "
" Hind Quarters.....	10 cts. to 13 cts. "
" Fore ".....	8 cts. to 10 cts. "
" Roasts and Steak.....	12 cts. to 15 cts. "
" Boiling.....	8 cts. to 10 cts. "
" Hearts, Liver, Shanks and Tongues.....	50 cts. each.
Veal.....	15 cts. to 18 cts. per lb.
Sausages.....	18 cts. "
Bread.....	15 loaves for \$1.
Honey.....	20 cts. per lb.
Sugar.....	1 loaf, 12½ cts.; Granulated 10 cts.
Tea.....	25 cts. to 75 cts. per lb.
Coffee.....	35 cts. to 45 cts. "
Syrup, Molasses.....	\$3 per 5 gal. keg.
Coal Oil.....	50 cts. to 75 cts. per gal.
Apples, Dried.....	11 cts. to 12½ cts. per lb.
" Evaporated.....	18 cts. to 20 cts. "
Californian Fruit, canned.....	\$5.00 to \$6.00 per bar'l.
Pears, Grapes, Apricots, Peaches, Green Gages, Melons.....	45 cts. to 50 cts. per can.
Oats.....	20 cts. to 25 cts. per lb.
Barley.....	45 cts. to 55 cts. per bush.
Peas.....	45 cts. to 50 cts. per bush.
Flax Seed.....	4 cts. per lb.
Hay.....	8 cts. to 10 cts. per lb.
Straw.....	\$8.00 to \$12.00 per ton.
Chickens.....	\$5.00 to \$8.00 per ton.
Ducks.....	\$1.00 per pair.
Geese.....	\$1.50 per pair.
Turkeys.....	22 cts. per lb.
Pigs, 2 months old.....	22 cts. per lb.
Milch Cows.....	\$2.00 to \$5.00 each.
Range ".....	\$40.00 to \$60.00 each.
Calves.....	\$28.00 to \$40.00 "
Sheep.....	\$8.00 to \$12.00 "
	From \$3.00 upwards.

Horses, Native Ponies.....	\$20.00 to \$60.00.
" Saddle.....	\$60.00 and upwards.
" General Purposes.....	\$120.00 to \$250.00.
" Single Driving.....	\$120.00 to \$250.00.
" Heavy Teams, Matched.....	\$250.00 to \$400.00.
" Draught Teams, Matched.....	\$250.00 to \$450.00.
Stock Saddles, Alberta Manufactured.....	\$10.00 to \$75.00.
Team Harness.....	\$20.00 to \$50.00 per set.
Single Driving Harness.....	\$30.00 to \$45.00 "
Double " "	\$30.00 to \$50.00 "
" Wagons.....	\$80.00 to \$110.00 each.
Top Buggies (Carriages).....	\$110.00 to \$165.00 "
Plows.....	\$20.00 to \$26.00.
Harrows.....	\$18.00 to \$22.00.
Disc Harrows.....	\$35.00 to \$15.00.
Rollers (made on the farm), highly necessary, few in use.....	
Cambridge Crushers, none in the country.....	
Drill Seeders.....	\$5.00.
Mowers.....	\$75.00 to \$80.00.
Horse Rake.....	\$30.00 to \$35.00.
Spring Wagon.....	\$115.00 to \$140.00.
Cooking Stoves.....	\$25.00 to \$60.00.
Bedsteads.....	\$2.00 upwards.
Tables.....	\$2.00 "
Chairs.....	60 cts. "
Lounges.....	\$8.00 "
Blankets.....	\$3.50 to \$9.00 per pair.
Bedroom Suites.....	From \$20.00 to \$100.00.
Bricks.....	\$11.00 to \$13.00 per M.
Rough Lumber.....	\$12.00 to \$18.00 "
Dressed "	\$20.00 to \$35.00 "
Soft Coal.....	\$6.50 to \$7.00 per ton.
Hard "	\$8.00 "
Firewood (Cordwood).....	\$4.50 to \$5.50 per cord.
Gails (14 to 16 ft.).....	10 cts. each.
Posts (7 ft.).....	7 cts. to 10 cts. each.
Slabs for Sheddings.....	\$10 per M.
House Logs from.....	50 cts. to \$1.50 each.

## CONTRAST PRICES OF GOODS IN CALGARY, JANUARY 1st, 1883.

Flour.....	15 cts. per lb.
Oats.....	10 cts. "
Barley.....	8 cts. "
Tea.....	\$1.00 "
Sugar.....	50 cts. "
Bacon.....	30 cts. "
Butter, packed.....	50 cts. "
Beef.....	25 cts. "
Hay.....	\$30 per ton.
Eggs.....	\$1.50 per doz.
Potatoes.....	10 cts. per lb.

J. G. FITZGERALD,  
Calgary, Alberta.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your question relating to the country in the vicinity of the Rocky Mountain House, in Northwestern Alberta, I may say that having lived at the Hudsons' Bay Company's Fort here for 12 years, I am able to speak with some experience. Coming to the North-West in the year 1861, and being at York Factory, Oxford House, Norway House, and other northern points, I have seen considerable of the north. My experience at Mountain House leads me to believe that as a country suitable for mixed farming exceeds in the luxuriance of its grasses, its plentiful supply of timber, and mountain streams abounding in fish, and the productions of its soil, any portion of Alberta that I have seen, that it will in the future be a thickly settled and wealthy district, I have no doubt.

During the last two years of my stay at the fort we grew barley, potatoes, cabbage, carrots, turnips and beets, the equal of which I have never seen.

From the Red Deer to the Mountain House the country resembles Old Country parks, open glades and clumps of trees.

During the winter of 1874-75 Angus McDonald and myself had two oxen, which the company gave us for our own use; they wintered out without care; we killed one of them about New Year of 1875 and the other late in the spring, and they made prime beef. The snow does not crust in that part of Alberta. We had warm winds, but not sufficient to cause a crust. The grass grows very long; and I have seen the pea vine growing as high as brush. The country has no end of coal. It is to be found everywhere along the river and creek banks. The blacksmith at the fort used it for forge work. Game, such as moose deer and bears, were plentiful then; and it was one of the best fur countries in the North-West. At that time there were splendid forests of timber all over the country, but I hear lately that fires have done much damage to the timber.

In early days the Indians used to bring me nuggets of gold, which, from what I could learn from them, they found along one of the creeks in the vicinity. I had a number of those nuggets but have given them all away. The last I gave to Dr. McEachren to make a ring of. I believe gold will yet be found there in paying quantities.

Coming up the Saskatchewan the country is a vast forest of good timber. All that it requires to make it a populated country is a railway running north. Once its advantages become known it will soon settle up.

I have lived in Calgary since the summer of 1875, and have now 33 acres just outside the corporation of the town of Calgary. I have 37 head of cattle and comfortable buildings. People tell me that my vegetable garden this past season was as good as they ever saw. My potatoes were especially praised.

I have now left the Hudson Bay Company after having served them for 24 years.

I am waiting to sell my property in town as well as my farm, and immediately I do so I will take my cattle to the country I have told you about, as I consider it the best country I know, and it will suit me better.

In early days we used to say what a pity it was to see such a grand country lying waste while so many hundred heads of families at home were struggling for a lifetime to make a bare living; and it is as good a country to-day as it was then. What a man wants is some capital to start with, say from \$500 up. With industry and sobriety he will, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, be well off in the course of a few years.

My native home was in Dundee, Forfarshire, Scotland. I have no object in writing this letter but in the interest of truth and for information.

Yours,

ANGUS FRASER.

CALGARY, Alberta,  
December 31st, 1887.

## NORTHERN ALBERTA THE NATURAL LOCATION FOR MIXED FARMING.

To J. G. FITZGERALD, Esq.,  
Calgary.

Having travelled over a great part of the country between the Bow and Athabasca Rivers, now forming a part of the Province of Alberta, I have no hesitation in claiming for this region that it is pre-eminently adapted for the purposes of stock raising and the growth of vegetables and cereals of the hardier kinds; I say of the hardier kinds, for in this matter I would speak of what has been done, not of what may be accomplished in the future; for I fully believe in climatic changes brought about by the settlement of the country and as the reward of the industry and thrift of civilized man.

Over twenty years since I successfully raised crops of barley and all manner of roots at points over one hundred miles distant from each other and situated in different attitudes.

The quality of these crops was good; the quantity in yield was great; especially was this the case with barley and potatoes. While testing the soil I was also practically experimenting upon the grasses natural to the land.

I was travelling almost constantly with horses for from seven to eight months, and for the balance of the year with dogs. During the time I worked my horses, travelling and freighting with them for thousands of miles each season, I very seldom gave them any grain, their food being almost altogether the natural grass everywhere abounding in this big land; then when I took to the dogs I turned my horses out on the range to hunt their own living; such was our unbounded faith in the native grass and also in the acclimatized horse.

But as everyone can see were it not for the nutritious properties of this grass no amount of acclimatizing would enable a horse to work all spring, summer and fall and then find their own living during the colder winter months. In the meanwhile myself, in common with all other inhabitants of this country at that time, were living on Buffalo, whose only food the year round was the same grass, and whose instinctive judgment of these grasses was that in autumn and winter they went north into this region I am writing about, leaving the plains proper. These great herds of wild cattle went north into the park lands of Northern Alberta and thus fully demonstrated to all the fact of the stockraising qualities of this immense land situated on the banks of the Athabasca, North Saskatchewan, Battle and Red Deer Rivers, which perennial streams with their numberless tributaries and rising in the Rocky Mountains, as most of them do, and running parallel to each other, loudly speak as to the quality and quantity of the water supply of this favored land.

On all of these streams there is more or less timber, and everywhere over the country the prairie and woodland is intermixed, so that in the very start of settlement the question of cleared land, building timber, fencing, fuel, is at once answered.

The bona-fide home seeker can all over this part of Alberta, simultaneous with putting up his tent, start his plough, and chop his logs for the new home, and set the other boys cutting and hauling rails for the first pasture. All this has been done, and will be in the near future in thousands of instances.

Then almost any homesteader can go to bed knowing that his farm is situated right over a coal mine. That underlying the surface of this country and cropping out all over it there are immense coal fields, assuring him of an endless fuel supply, and this at home. Another feature I had almost forgotten is the game. The thrifty wife or daughter of the new settler can feel easy on account of the little crates of poultry she brought with her. They may grow, for all around are wild chickens and ducks in endless variety, and these can be made to give food and fun to the household while the others are growing.

To the hardy and skilful hunter here is also a fine field. Grizzly, Black, Brown, Cinnamon Bear, Moose and Elk, Black and Whitetailed Deer; all these are found in the low lands and foot hills, while in the mountains are Bighorn and Goat; and while hunting these latter there is always the possibility of tumbling into a mine which will startle the world because of its richness; for as yet this is a great unknown and unexplored country, and any new comer for the next twenty years may be a discoverer.

We, who have for a score of years or more travelled this big unknown land, have found

some of its resources and know that these are very good ; but we have also found out that it is so big that as yet we know very little about it. But we do know that before many years some of the finest horses, cattle and sheep the world has ever seen will be exported from this very region. We have before us in mind as we write.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN McDougall,  
Missionary.

MORLEY, Jan. 7th, 1888.

PINE CREEK (Near Calgary), 11th January, 1888.

SIR.—I came to Alberta from the Western States in 1883, and located on Pine Creek, about 13 miles south of Calgary.

The following spring I took up land and began mixed farming and stock raising, with a very small capital. I have now 500 acres of land nearly fenced with wire, and have a comfortable home and out-buildings. I crop about 30 acres of my farm. I have now 80 head of cattle.

With my experience I would say that this part of the country is well adapted for mixed farming, cheese and butter-making.

I milk twenty (20) cows, and sold during the season of 1887 two thousand five hundred (2,500) pounds of butter. The whole sold readily in Calgary for thirty-five (35) cents (1s., 5½d.) per pound, having kept sufficient for family use, which was equal to the milk of two cows.

I believe any energetic man would do well here ; but, of course, those who have some practical experience succeed best.

As to the amount of capital necessary to start with, I think a great deal depends on the man ; but five hundred (\$500) dollars (£100) ought to give a person a fair start now, considering the prices of everything the settler has to buy are much lower now than they were a few years since.

I had very little more than the above amount when I started, and I had to support a large family of young children. My oldest boy is 12 years old now, and I have 6 others. I may add they have enjoyed splendid health since we came to Alberta.

During the time I have been here I have grown good crops of wheat, oats, barley, peas, flax, which latter I intend in future growing larger crops of, as we can get six cents per pound for it in Calgary, besides its value on the farm as food for calves.

I have also every year grown potatoes, cabbage, onions, turnips, beets, carrots, and nearly every kind of vegetables and roots, and have (with the exception of last year) had good crops.

The natural grasses make the very best fodder and hay. I don't feed my stock more than two months any winter, excepting milch cows and calves.

I have farmed here for four years and in that time I have suffered once from summer frosts, and that was last season ; but whilst some of us settlers, in various parts of the country, had the misfortune to lose our crops, our neighbors close beside us, grew crops that would delight any farmer.

I have read a letter published in the *Canadian Gazette*, London, England, in its issue of December 22nd, 1887, written by "A Settler's Wife, and this year an unsuccessful one," dated Calgary, Alberta, Nov. 25th, 1887. The whole letter is a senseless gabble. The writer maligns the country and its people, and gives a most misleading idea of the climate. True, the letter contradicts itself, and will be credited by few practical minded persons ; still, it is only just to this country and its people to say that while it may express the feelings of the individual writer it does not convey a truthful impression of the seasons or climate of this country.

In the vicinity of the farm of the "unsuccessful settler's wife" there are a number of real settlers, industrious, hard-working families, and on their farms good crops were raised the past season.

I will name a few who sowed and attended to their crops and had good returns in 1887, namely : Mr. John Watt (one of the settlers referred to in the letter as having met a severe loss, his hay being burned the previous year, and who is son-in-law of "Settler's Wife") had a crop of oats which yielded over sixty (60) bushels of prime grain to the acre. Mr. William Wonacott, of Pine Creek, a few miles distant, had a crop of oats yielding upwards of fifty (50) bushels to the acre, and weighing 44 lbs. to the bushel. This gentlewoman had also a good crop

of roots and vegetables. Mr. P. B. Clelland, between Fish and Pine Creeks, in the vicinity adjoined to, had good crops of wheat, oats, barley, roots and vegetables. Robertson Brothers, of Pine Creek, and Robt. Jamieson, of Pine Creek, and a number of other settlers in the neighbourhood whom I could name, had good crops.

But what better proof could be given than the roots, vegetables, and grain shown at the Calgary Fall Fair in October last, when visitors from all parts wondered at the splendid display of farm produce and farm stock, which could be shown to advantage in any country. Cauliflower weighing from 9 to 12 lbs. each, monster Swede turnips, and potatoes, in fact everything in the show spoke in highest praise of the fruitfulness of the soil.

We have summer frosts, and they do some damage now and again, but I have seen a hundred fold more loss and failure from bad farming and idle helplessness than from any climatic drawback.

We have here, as well as in other countries, a set of "Chronic Kickers," who will neither work intelligently or live within their means, and who spend more time running around attending dances and visiting Calgary than they do at work on the farm, and they practically do not know how to work and are too indolent to learn. They have never worked at home, and come to this country expecting to get on without working, and, as a matter of course, get disappointed, and then they grumble at the Government, the country, the people, the climate, everything and everybody is at fault excepting only their "infallible selves."

We have to be thankful that we have only a few of that sort here, yet the bile that emanates from their torpid livers is so bitter that it would poison a whole community. Here in Alberta we have as a rule an energetic, intelligent class of settlers, plucky, hardy pioneers, a credit to any country new or old.

We have a good market for farm produce as will be seen from the price I get for my butter, and other farm produce brings equally good prices; and I may say that ninety (90) per cent. of the butter consumed here is imported for want of producers, viz.: practical farmers,

There are splendid openings here for practical men with some capital. Cheese-making, butter-making, hog raising, cattle, sheep and horse ranching, are industries which promise rich returns to industrious men. Men with families will do best, as they will not need to hire so much labor. Everywhere throughout the settled districts we have good schools for our children, supported largely by Government grants, and this is a great blessing to the heads of families in a new country. We have many inconveniences here which wealthy people in the old countries are not bothered with. We have, too, a country which promises a poor man competence, and a bright future if he is but industrious and hardworking. It is a country of freedom compared with the old settled countries of the world.

We have bad weather here as well as elsewhere, but taken altogether, both the climate and the soil are equal if not superior to that of any other portion of America that I have been in, and I have seen a considerable portion of this continent.

We have in Calgary (a town scarcely four years old) a splendid school house, good churches, fine stone and brick blocks, stores carrying heavy stocks in their various lines, business men of large experience and sound judgment, always willing to sell goods at reasonable prices for cash; but if a settler is known to be shiftless and idle, and wants to get goods on credit ("jawbone" it is called here), for which it is apparent they can never pay, then they are justified in keeping their goods, but the trouble is that some of them get too much credit.

There were \$300,000 spent in erecting buildings in Calgary alone last year. We have intelligent, refined, honorable, high-principled men and women, who would be a credit to any country, and they are in the majority. We have also a worthless class, as all communities have, but with them the sensible, industrious new-comers and settlers have no need to come in contact. Of course there are good and bad here as elsewhere.

We have a splendid country and room for thousands of practical farmers. Cheap land in a fruitful country means wealth to the industrious.

Yours truly,

SAMUEL RAY.

SIR,—I came to Manitoba and the North-West Territories in 1874. During the past seven years I visited every settlement from the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains, and from the boundary line to the North Saskatchewan.

The last six years I have made my home near Calgary, Alberta, and I believe no other district in the Territories or Manitoba can offer so many inducements to the capitalists or the settler or the workingman.

Calgary, as a town, has sprung into existence within the last four years, and has now a population of 3,000, and is increasing in population and wealth rapidly. Real estate in some cases has doubled in value every year, notwithstanding the fact that Calgary never had a boom, but came into existence during the worst years of depression, after the booms in Winnipeg and other towns and cities in Manitoba and the Territories.

I believe the Province of Alberta offers splendid inducements to good practical farmers.

I have seen good crops grown in the vicinity every year for the last six years, and during the past three years, I have experimented largely in growing grain and vegetables, in order to get varieties suited to our mountain climate, and I am satisfied that the earlier varieties of wheat, oats, barley and peas can be grown successfully, even in our most backward seasons. I find that our cool nights during the summer season, which we feel so pleasant after a hot day, have a tendency to check vegetation, consequently we require to sow the earliest varieties of grain and vegetables to make sure of a crop ripening every year.

I have grown almost all kinds of vegetables here; potatoes, turnips, carrots, cauliflowers and cabbage were equal to any I ever saw.

As President of the Calgary District Agricultural Society for the past two years, I have met farmers and stockmen from all parts of the Alberta District, and they, without a single exception, expressed themselves satisfied with their prospects, and I may say, that we have settlers from almost every country in the world and every province of Canada.

In addition to our splendid agricultural prospects we have the finest grazing country on the continent.

I have travelled through all the grazing States and Territories of America, and know of no country or district where mixed farming can be so profitably carried on. Horses and cattle will run on the prairie and keep in good condition all the year round, but the farmer with a homestead under cultivation can keep a good herd of cattle, horses and sheep, and feed them straw in the stormiest weather, which will be all the feed required, for as soon as the storm is over, the stock will return again to the prairie grass. For work horses or dairy cows, good hay can be cut on the prairie during the summer season. This prairie grass is a mixture of many varieties of grasses and vetch, and instead of getting eaten out by long close pasturing, as is the case in most of grazing territory of America, it improves, as can be proved by the fine growth of grass to be seen year after year in the vicinity of Calgary, where it has been pastured closely for the last twelve years.

The District of Alberta is splendidly watered, by thousands of springs and mountain creeks and rivers running eastward through beautiful valleys and rich prairie lands.

Calgary being the most important and largest town in Alberta, is the market town for farm produce for a very large district, and is the best market in the Territories. The supply does not now equal the demand, and thousands upon thousands of dollars are sent out of the district annually for flour, oats, vegetables, bacon, butter, cheese, eggs, poultry, etc., all of which should be produced by our farmer, and the money kept in the district. As soon as we are able to satisfy Calgary market, we will find markets in the mining and lumbering towns springing up in the mountains, which will ensure good markets for produce from the district for all time, as we will always be the nearest farming district to the mountains, and will have the protection of the freight rates from Manitoba and the eastern portion of the Territories.

Good agricultural labourers are always scarce and command good wages, in fact good workmen of all kinds can always find work at good wages, both summer and winter, as there is an increasing lumber trade carried on in the mountains.

In conclusion, I would advise any person thinking of emigrating who is willing to work, or who has sufficient capital to take up and stock a farm to come to Alberta. Building material, fencing and fuel are cheaper than further east, and prices for all a farmer has to sell are higher. Good schools and churches are being established through the district, and the Government are doing a great deal for the district by bridging all the large

rivers on the main trails, and a railroad north and south through the centre of this district, is one of the probabilities of the near future, which will open up good homes for thousands of people, beyond those that are easily accessible now.

JAMES WALKER.

CALGARY, Alberta,  
January 6th, 1888.

J. G. FITZGERALD,  
Calgary, Alberta.

SIR,—I came to this country in 1882 from Arizona and settled on Fish Creek; since then I have farmed there. I was advised by old John Glen, one of the old settlers, to take up land, as the country was a good one, and since then I have learned that his advice was good and his statement true.

I have 320 acres on the banks of Fish Creek, and I have a good log house, a comfortable stable and 120 feet of shedding for cattle; each year I have had good crops.

Last year, 1887, I had forty acres under crops, root and grain; oats, barley, wheat, potatoes, turnips, beets, carrots, parsnips, cauliflowers and cabbage, all yielded me good returns. Off of four acres I raised \$1,000 worth of roots. My oat crop averaged 45 bushels per acre, and my wheat 35 bushels per acre, and barley a good crop.

I have travelled for sixteen years all over America, and I do not want to leave Alberta, as I consider it the best country I was ever in.

I have fifteen head of cattle and eight horses, which are in prime condition, all wintering out, except the horses I am working. Last winter I wintered 120 head of cattle with great success, feeding straw out doors. I have all the implements required on a farm, and am comfortably fixed in every way; my capital to start with was \$1,100. I have sold, and have on hands for sale, \$1,200 worth of produce this season, besides keeping all I require for my own use.

For mixed farming, I know of no country that can equal Alberta.

Yours, etc.,

N. BEBO.

FISH CREEK, Alberta,  
January 9th, 1888.

J. G. FITZGERALD, Esq.,  
Calgary, Alberta.

SIR,—I came to Alberta in 1885—my former home was in Megantic County, Quebec. Since I came here I have been engaged in mixed farming, my son and myself have taken up a Government section, 640 acres, between us on High River. I commenced with 23 head of cattle, only three of them were mature cows, the rest were 2-year olds and yearlings; with the increase of this stock, and the stock purchased with the surplus money I made over my requirements, I have now 54 head, and have killed (3) three beeves for family use. I commenced with 3 horses and now have (8) eight; and one sow.

In the season of 1886 I made \$290 from butter sold; the average price that year was about 32 cents per lb.; and raised 10 calves. Last year (1887) I sold about \$300 worth of butter, averaging me 35 cents per lb., and I raised seventeen calves; I also raised my own pork and sold \$40 worth—this with the refuse and skim milk.

I have built a house worth about \$500, and am comfortably fixed in every way. I have about 30 acres under cultivation. The first year I had a very fair crop, all ripening well; last year the season was backward, I cut my crop green. I had a fair crop of potatoes and enough barley ripe to feed my horses, and enough roots and vegetables for our own use.

Last year I purchased a saddle, \$40; a double set of harness, \$40; a hay-rake, \$40; and I was able to make a present of \$20 to build a school house.

I have no debts, and my chances for making money from this on are much better, now that I have a good lot of stock to dairy with.

I have never been sorry for coming to this country, and I can see that my children are much better off. My ideas of the class of men who will do well here are men with a capital of \$1,500 or \$2,500, practical men who are not afraid to work, and who know the

value of money, for extravagance is a curse here. Too many come here expecting to find wealth and every luxury awaiting them, and as a matter of course are disappointed, and then find fault with the country when the fault is in themselves. We want men who have been accustomed to farm work; practical dairy farmers will do well here without any doubt. I believe that the men who will make most money here are the mixed farmers; men who will keep just as many cattle as they can care for during the *six or seven weeks* of severe winter weather that we may expect. Horses require no winter care, they will rustle for themselves any winter.

I have a brother here who commenced with a very small capital, and who has done even better than I have. There is no end of free lands all over Alberta, and good openings for capitalists and practical farmers.

Yours truly,

THOMAS H. ANDREWS.

HIGH RIVER, Alberta,  
January 14th, 1888.

MR. FITZGERALD,  
CALGARY, Alberta.

DEAR SIR.—In reply to your request, I shall be only too glad to say whatever I can concerning this district and the Indian population, in the hope that any who intend emigrating from Great Britain to this part of the North-West may form an opinion of this district and its inhabitants.

I am a Missionary of the Church Missionary Society, and came here in the summer of 1883 to commence work among the 2,200 Blackfeet who are settled on this excellent reserve. The reserve set apart for the exclusive use of these Indians, by the Government, is about 36 miles long and 15 miles wide, its northern boundary being the line of the C. P. R'y. It is well supplied with wood, coal, and water. The Bow River runs through it from west to east, and its banks are well wooded. Coal is seen cropping out all along its banks on either side, and there are no less than three places being worked at the present moment by the Indians for their own use and that of the Government officials who are placed over them.

The Indians are divided into two large camps, called respectively the North and the South Blackfeet, and each ruled by a Head-Chief, "Crowfoot," who is also chief of the whole Blackfoot nation (including Blood and Peigan Indians in the district of Fort Macleod), is Head Chief of the South Blackfeet, and "Old Sun," a very old man, is head of the North Blackfeet. These camps are again sub-divided into bands under minor chiefs, and these bands dwell in villages built on the north bank of the Bow, at short distances from each other.

The Indians, as a body, are a fine lot of men, and for physique and intelligence compare well with any other race along the line of the C.P.R. They are still all heathen, and retain many of their old customs. They paint their faces, red and yellow being the predominant colors. Men and women alike wear huge earrings, bracelets, and necklaces. The women are the "hewers of wood and drawers of water" for the tribe, and help their husbands in any manual labor they may have on hand. Their dress consists of a costume hanging from the shoulders and fastened around the waist with a belt, short leggings, moccasins, with a few beads rudely worked on them, and a blanket which also serves as a covering at night. The men wear a short shirt made of cotton sheeting or calico, leggings, breech-clout, and a blanket or blanket coat. This dress, in both men and women, the once much warmer and handsomer one of deerskin and buffalo robe.

Deprived of their original occupation as hunters, the deer and buffalo having all disappeared, they have not only felt the loss of the warm skins with which they used to protect themselves in winter, but also have been deprived of their means of livelihood. The Government has, therefore, since their location on this reserve, undertaken to feed them all with beef and flour, which is issued to the heads of families twice or thrice a week. Farm instructors are also placed among them, and under their instructions some of the Indians have made good progress in agriculture. Many of them can plough, harrow, and mow, but the majority do not take kindly to this new occupation.

Oats, barley, potatoes, beets, turnips, carrots, onions, &c., have all been raised successfully here each year except the last, when the oat crop did not ripen so well as in previous years.

The Indians dwell in tents during the summer months and move about a great deal. In the winter they always return to their villages, where their houses are made of logs, and when I came among them first they had neither windows or stoves, their fire-places being made of mud in the corner of the house, and the floor and roof being of the same material. They have now nearly all windows and floors to their houses, many have stoves, and had they means would make much greater strides towards civilized life. As it is their poverty keeps them back, caused to a great extent by their idleness in not tilling the land reserved to them by the Government.

There are three schools in operation on the reserve, two amongst the North Blackfeet connected with my mission, and one amongst the South Blackfeet connected with the Roman Catholic Mission, all three being assisted by grants from the Government.

The children have not made rapid progress, but some of them have shown us that with the ordinary training English children have, they are capable of developing into quick and intelligent scholars, several of the children in the school now being able to read intelligently Gage's Canadian First Reader in English.

The occupation of so much of the country just here by the Blackfeet has naturally kept immigrants from settling here, but since the establishment of a divisional point of the C. P. R. Y. at Gleichen, a village has sprung up there consisting chiefly of railway employees. It has a post-office, three general stores, a public school, library and reading room. An English church, built a year ago at a cost of \$1,250 (\$250), ministers to the spiritual wants of the inhabitants, and Presbyterian and Roman Catholic services are also frequently held in the village.

The country north of Gleichen, and extending both east and west, is open to settlers. A few have already taken up land and commenced mixed farming. They seem to be very well pleased with their prospects. It is prairie land watered by small streams, but there is lack of timber. Those who have settled at a distance from streams have obtained good water by digging wells. Coal for fuel is obtained on both the Rosebud and Crowfoot Creeks, and the settlers who mine their own. Wood for fencing purposes is obtained by railway from the mountains at reasonable rates.

The climate is excellent, though somewhat uncertain. The air is clear and dry. The Rocky Mountains are clearly seen most of the year, though a hundred miles distant, and sometimes so plainly that one would almost expect to reach them in a few hours on horseback.

With all these advantages, however, I feel that many would-be immigrants would find this a poor place for a home unless they come with sufficient capital to buy horses and plough, lumber for a small house, and a cow and poultry. The best and only way for men to get on successfully is to enter upon mixed farming, raising vegetables and oats sufficient for the house and stock, and keeping cows, pigs and poultry, all of which will pay well and cost little to keep. Settlers are adopting this plan on Crowfoot and Rosebud Creeks, and also in the more immediate vicinity of Gleichen, and from what they say they seem confident of success. Men with a little capital, and a knowledge of farming and stock, who want to settle down on land of their own, and are not afraid of hard work, can, I feel sure, make good homes for themselves and families in this district.

The Indians are always ready to work for settlers for ready money. They are used by those in the district, and are, I believe, found to be cheap labourers. Above all we would like to see good Christian farmers whose lives would be a pattern to the poor Indians, who have never had the advantages of a Christian training that has fallen to the lot of all those who lived in Great Britain.

I am, Sir,

Yours sincerely,

J. W. TIMS.

GLEICHEN, Blackfoot Reserve,  
December 26th, 1887.

J. G. FIZGERALD, Esq.,

Secretary Calgary District Agricultural Society.

SIR,—I have lived near Calgary for over four years, and consider the country is admirably adapted for mixed farming, the grasses (native) being rich and nutritious, and have great flesh producing qualities. And for the most part of the winters since I came here, cattle and horses did not require housing or feed longer than six weeks any one year.

While on the ranges, neither cattle or horses received any special attention other than they would receive in summer, and stood the winter season in fair order.

I raised this year on my farm, 3 miles from Calgary, oats wheat and barley, besides a general assortment of vegetables, grown from Rennie & Co.'s seed, Toronto, which all turned out a good sample and a good average return, some of my oats growing to the height of six feet and ripening; this was grown on the third ploughing, while that on the second ploughing grew to the height of three feet, and on spring breaking, about two feet.

While the spring opens very early and gives the farmer plenty of seeding time, flowers appearing generally in the latter end of March, I have known farmers to have put crop in the ground in February, while they would not start to grow until the latter end of April.

While the climate is variable, taking it all the year round, there is more pleasant weather than the reverse. And while the cold seasons are extreme, the occurrence of "chinook" or warm winds break the monotony of the winter. It is also just to say that frosts occur here, as in all new countries, but by the use of tillage the damage will be obviated, as it has been proven to do in other districts.

The greatest difficulty or drawback I find here is wood, which counts high on the expense of a farm, but there is land to be had within a radius of 100 miles where wood can be got convenient. Coal is the most used here, as it exists in large quantities all over Alberta. Water I consider will not be difficult to find anywhere. Further, I would say that to succeed, money to start is one of the main points and good judgment to lay it out, so as to bring a sure profit. In fact the practical common sense men are the sure ones to make a pleasant and successful home here.

The yield of my crops this year is as follows: Oats, 45 bushels to the acre; wheat, 30 bushels from one bag of seed; and barley, 22 bushels from one bag (about 2 bush.) of seed; potatoes, 150 bushels per acre.

I remain,

Respectfully yours,

JAMES CO. SAR.

CALGARY P. O., Alberta,

December 9th, 1887.

Former home Selkirk, Scotland.

Was there ever such a country opened for settlement, with the same advantages as those of the District of Alberta? Here we are, bordered on the east by one of the finest grain growing countries in the world. Namely, Manitoba, and on the west by one of the noblest and grandest existing ranges of mountains, namely, the Rockies. It is to these we owe our less severe and more changeable winters than in any other part of Canada. At any time during the winter, the cold weather may be broken up by winds coming through the mountains from the Pacific Coast, commonly called chinooks. Then will follow a space of delicious warm weather, lasting from two to three weeks. The former snow will in two or three days be all melted, and the ground as dry and bare as in summer time. A change may come for the worse any time, and very suddenly, and ditto again for the good. One soon becomes accustomed to these changes, and looks forward to them daily, as they break the monotony of the usual steady winter of Manitoba and Canada in general. Taking the Macleod District in which most of the lands lie, the climate is milder and more variable than in any other part of Alberta, owing chiefly I believe to its lying in a large basin or bay in the Rockies, into which two passes through the mountains open, and through which these chinook winds find their way. In Calgary the winters are more or less variable and very mild at times. It is in this district that most of the settlers are, and in which there is plenty of room for any more intending ones. Calgary is the largest and most prosperous town west of Winnipeg, and in the future may even compete with that town in size and population.

There is I think a certain success for those who will try mixed farming, so not depending entirely on their crops as a means of making a good living and saving money. We can never compete with Manitoba as a grain producing country, the country being not so well adapted

and seasons shorter. But as a country for raising and maturing stock of all sorts, we cannot be beaten. Manitoba can never compare with us. The two countries will be in the future probably dependent on each other; Manitoba on us for horses, cattle, sheep and wool, and we on them for grain and all other farm produce. (I must add that the North-West can produce roots of all sorts to perfection).

With regard to mixed farming, by which I mean the raising of horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, etc., and the growing of grain and roots. This a man can with a small amount of capital, always engage in, and be independent of his crops being a success, as, if they do not ripen, he can always stack it as green feed. The green feed he can feed throughout the winter to his stock, it being stronger than hay, and can be grown just as cheaply. The ground being so very fertile, will produce a heavy crop always, from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  tons per acre. It is in mixed farming that the success of present and future settlers lies. No winter need be feared, however severe they may be at times, if those with stock will only take the ordinary precaution of other countries, namely, have plenty of shelter in the shape of sheds, and plenty of feed in the shape of hay and green feed. Cattle do not hardly cost anything to raise, also sheep and horses, and there is a ready home market for any one has for sale. Sheep farming will be, I fancy, the chief industry of the country. It takes less capital to start a sheep farm than horses or cattle, and has two returns throughout the year, namely, wool and mutton. The clear dry bracing air of the country suits sheep, which suffer from little or no disease. Sheep mature early, owing to the fine quality of the grass. To winter them safely, good warm roomy sheds, plenty of hay (10 ton to the 100 head) and careful looking after is all that is wanted. Throughout the greater part of the winter, sheep only require one feed a day, the rest of the day they are let out to graze, and brought home into sheds at night. Horses can winter out, and can do well without feeding them at all. Around Calgary is a particularly good range for horses, and a ready market for them. In summer stocks of all kinds fatten up with startling rapidity. There is a no more glorious climate in the world than that of Alberta during the summer season, namely, from May to the end of September.

With regard to ranching, which I mean by running herds of horses and cattle at large on leased lands, this will always be a success and a means of making money, especially from now on, as those who have been engaged in it for the past 5 or 6 years have learned, by experience how to handle their stock in our winters, which are now and again severe. Now ranchers do not fear any winters, as they know how to contend with them.

Now is the time for intending settlers and ranchers to come out while the pick of the country is left, and land is increasing in value every year. I can safely insure anyone who is industrious and has a small amount of capital a good living, and in two or three years to be in the way of saving and making money, if they will only come out and buckle to hard and steady work for a year or two. Come now while the country is new and the pick of the land left. 1888 has every chance of being a year to be remembered in the annals of North-West history, owing to the country being in the beginning of certain prosperity, and an established trade between Canada and England in live stock.

F. deWINTON.

BRECON RANCH, Calgary,  
ALBERTA RANCHE, Pincher Creek,  
December 18th.

J. G. FITZGERALD,

Hon. Secretary Agricultural Society, Calgary.

Sir.—From my own experience and from what I have seen of my neighbours' doings, I believe that farming will pay well in this district.

I have had a fair crop of oats for three successive years; a good field of potatoes two seasons. This summer potatoes were a failure with me—I had about a third of a crop. Barley and turnips grow well.

It appears to me that the further from the mountains the less danger of summer frost; but on the other hand, the nearer the mountains the deeper the soil and the more abundant the supply of grass and fodder; from which I infer that the district in the immediate vicinity of Calgary will be found most suitable for raising grain and other crops, while the lands lying west

of a line drawn north and south through Calgary are well adapted for the profitable rearing of cattle, sheep and horses.

Of sheep I have not had myself any experience, but horses do well outside all winter, even in very severe weather, if they have some shelter from the wind. Cattle require some hay in winter as well as shelter; milch cows especially. The finer class and those brought in from the east that have been accustomed to care are better housed. Steers and young stock do well outside with a little hay.

Small farmers, owning from one to two hundred acres, would do best, I believe, near town, raising grain crops for sale and producing milk and butter.

The milk is very rich here, showing that the natural grasses are well suited for dairy farming.

Farmers on a more extensive scale with larger capital would probably find raising stock, growing oat hay and other kinds of fodder for winter feed more suitable. Steers from the large ranges where the cattle run out all year can generally be bought in autumn at a price that admits of a good profit if fed during the winter and brought out fit for market in spring.

I remain, etc., etc.,

JAS. STEWART MOORE.

ARDHIEL, Bow River, Calgary.

January 3rd, 1888.

Former home Antrim, Ireland.

### ALBERTA ADAPTED FOR MIXED HUSBANDRY.

To J. G. FITZGERALD, Esq.,  
Calgary.

SIR.—Having been a resident of Calgary and vicinity for the past 3½ years, and having travelled considerably through the country, I have been enabled to form some idea as to whether this part of the district of Alberta is suitable for mixed farming or otherwise.

#### 1st, as to Grain and Roots.

I have seen as fine oats, barley, and peas raised in this immediate neighbourhood as anyone could wish to see. Oats sowed on sod, plump and heavy, weighing over 40 lbs. to the bushel. Barley with straw four feet long, and both straw and grain as bright almost as gold. I saw peas at Mr. John Glinn's, grown by himself, the finest sample I ever saw anywhere. Wheat has not been tried by many yet, but I have seen very fine samples, and when there is a grist mill to grind it, and when it is found out what is the best variety for this section of country, I doubt not but it will be frequently grown quite successfully.

#### Then as to Roots.

The collections of potatoes, beets, cabbages, cauliflowers, carrots, parsnips, turnips, and onions exhibited last fall in Calgary was ocular demonstration, and proof positive to everyone who had the capacity to be convinced that all the above varieties can be grown here to perfection, although last summer was not at all favourable for agricultural purposes.

I, myself, had a very fine crop of Swede turnips, and my nearest neighbour as fine a crop of the same as anyone ever saw.

But someone asks, "Do not the summer frosts quite frequently destroy everything there?" I answer, most emphatically, "No, they do not; while, it is true, they occasionally injure the crops in this region. I am firmly convinced when the land becomes better cultivated and much deeper plowed, the frosts will become of much less frequent occurrence." "How is that?" "Well, just this way, when the ground is plowed only 3 or 4 inches deep, as it always is at first when broken up, the air and heat cannot penetrate beyond that depth, but when it is plowed 8 or 10 inches deep the heat through the day can penetrate that depth, and the earth will, as a matter of course, retain the heat much longer through the night, and thus counteract the injurious influences of the frost. And then, when the land has been cropped a few years, and thus to a considerable extent becomes impoverished, the grain will not grow so rank (as

when the land was richer), and mature in two or three weeks' shorter time than it formerly did." Some may ask, "Do many fail in growing crops in that district?" "I think not many, and those who do are mostly themselves to blame for such failure." There are quite a number settled in this section of the country who are merely pretending to farm, who had no experience whatever previous to coming here. They put in the seed in anything but a husbandman-like way. Take potatoes for example. They never put a plow, scuffle, or hoe near them until the weeds (lamb's quarter especially) are 6 inches high and the poor potatoes 2 or 3 inches.

I have seen persons hoeing potatoes when they had to go down on their knees to search for the potatoes among the weeds. Now, I have an idea, where weeds of any kind are allowed to get and keep possession of the ground, and thus absorb the moisture and plant food, the potato, or any other crop needing the rain, may struggle in vain, it must succumb sooner or later, for my experience has always been the more weeds the less crop necessarily, and such is very generally the cause of failure here. I speak from observation, and could give instances of such. But give the land plenty of good culture and 4 times out of 5 the root crops will astonish one.

#### Then as to Stock.

I am led to the conclusion that Alberta is admirably adapted for the raising of horses, cattle, and sheep, for the following reasons:—

1st. For scores of miles in every direction from Calgary there is an abundance of the richest and most nutritious wild grasses.

The horses and cattle generally feed out through the winter as well as summer. There is seldom sufficient snow to render the grass inaccessible to the stock, and they do better with a little snow on the ground, as they gather it with the grass and it serves to quench their thirst, as the creeks and rivers are frozen over and the water beyond their reach—thus a little snow meets that difficulty.

Then this part of the North-West is plentifully supplied with the best and purest water, and must continue to be so as long as the Rocky Mountains continue to remain such a wondrous reservoir, catching the winter snow and retaining it through the summer, when it generally melts and thus supplies the rivers and creeks running from west to east every 8 or 10 miles apart for 450 miles, from the southern boundary to the north, for the stock to supply their want. It may be asked, "What provision can be made for the stock in case of a very hard winter when they cannot feed out?" "Well, there are thousands of tons of hay cut in the sloughs and on the uplands on the prairies every year, and if a person could not get the wild hay they could sow oats and cut them green, and thus procure an abundance of feed." Open sheds could be erected for the latter to run under for shelter when necessary, and be better than to be tied up in a stable. Our own cattle have been getting their own living until a few days ago, and they look well, and I expect they will forage for themselves again in a few days.

Then what a country this will be for the manufacture of butter and cheese; what facilities for both butter and cheese factories on those numerous, lovely streams, abounding all over this section of the country. I expect before many years there will be sufficient of both to supply almost the world's demands. I hear of two cheese factories to commence operations in the spring.

Some may wish to know as to the cost and supply of building materials. Timber all round Calgary is very scarce, and lumber (boards) is very dear. But there is almost everywhere, all over the country, the best natural building material in the shape of fine and coarse gravel, and that, with a certain proportion of common lime (easily obtained here), is capital material for houses, barns, stables, sheds, &c., &c. I built a house a year ago last summer of the above named material, 2 miles from Calgary, 18x22 feet, with a wing 12x16 feet, a story-and-a-half high, and it answers admirably, and there is very little skilled labour about it; any ordinary man, with a little assistance, could build his own house and other buildings, and a very small amount of lime answers the purpose.

Then there is the fuel question, and a very important one in this country. Well, the Great Good Spirit has made ample provisions in this respect. There is an illimitable supply of anthracite and bituminous coal; of the latter, for hundreds of miles, taking Calgary as a centre. Both kinds are now being mined in vast quantities in various places, and conveyed by railroad to different points, as it is the principal fuel used. Along the rivers there is more

or less timber, mostly cottonwood, which makes very good fuel when thoroughly dry, and then in the sloughs or marches there is an abundance of peat, which if cut and laid up to dry through the summer could be utilized, and answer a very good purpose by any settlers who were far from wood or a railroad station where coal could not be conveniently obtained ; and there is more or less of it everywhere all through the country.

The climate of Alberta is healthy and bracing, as I have found both from observation and experience. When I came here my health was very much impaired, my nervous system being completely enervated, so that I could neither eat or sleep to any extent. But in a very short time my health began to improve, and in a few months I felt like a new man. I now feel vigorous and strong, and am confident my coming to this part has added 10 or 15 years to my life. I have known others who have been quite restored to health by coming here. It is an excellent place for anyone troubled with lung affections, the air being so dry. One scarcely ever hears a cough in church or other public assemblies.

I am fully convinced, after having been nearly 37 years in the Dominion of Canada, that this part of the Great North-West offers the most encouraging inducements to intending settlers, and has the material in rich abundance out of which a good rich country can in a comparatively short time be made. We want thousands of good practical farmers, and sober industrious labourers, and a good number of real thorough servant girls, from the older countries to come and settle among us, and help us to make this a model country. And we also want the odd sections so arranged somehow so they can be thrown up for homesteading, and the whole country become more thickly filled up ; and with the blessing of God Almighty resting among us, we shall soon have, not only a great amount of independence, but vast amount of wealth, and a happy, prosperous and contented people. May it soon be realized.

Yours truly,

GEORGE JACQUIS.

CONCRETE CASTLE, Calgary, Alberta,  
January 13th, 1888.

I came to Alberta in the summer of 1886. My former home was in Nicola Valley, British Columbia, where I had been engaged in farming and stock raising for a number of years. I had lived on the western slope of the Rockies since 1854, having been through the mining camps of California, Alaska and British Columbia in my early days. Last year I sold my farm in British Columbia and brought some of my cattle to Alberta. My experience of this country is limited, but from what I have seen of it I am well satisfied with the change I have made. I did not get my cattle here until Xmas of last year, and suffered some loss in consequence of getting there so late in the season. During the months of January and February of this year the weather was very severe, and for that time cattle required shelter and care. Those who gave attention to their stock suffered but slightly. During the summer of this year I purchased an improved farm on the banks of Sheep Creek, some 33 miles south of Calgary. On this farm there was about 40 acres of oats, which I cut green for fodder, getting about two tons and a half to the acre of prime oat hay ; this I stacked for winter feed. I have on the farm now over two hundred head of cattle. So far (December 27th, 1887) I have fed only calves, and my stock are all in prime condition. I have sheds prepared for shelter in case of very severe weather, but as yet have no need for them. I have also some thirty head of horses, which are wintering out without feed or care. I can purchase hay in my neighbourhood for \$5.00 (£1) per ton, and straw for \$1.50 (6 shillings) per load. I consider this country well adapted for mixed farming, cattle, horse, sheep or hog raising, butter and cheese making. Root and vegetable crops grow well here, and the cost of putting fat animals on the market here in spring should be light and very profitable. What the country requires to make it a rich, prosperous one is capital and a population of practical farmers. The country abounds in rich grasses ; has a plentiful supply of water. Coal exists in immense quantities in every part of the district which I have visited. Timber, while not so plentiful or heavy as that of British Columbia, grows in large quantities along the foot hills, and can be driven down the different rivers and creeks without much expense. Until the country settles up more I do not consider that there will be much demand for labour ; and settlers coming here should have sufficient capital to enable them to stock their farms and wait for a season for the profits. With a capital



of, say \$2,000 (£400) to \$5,000 (£1,000), the practical farmer has prospects as good here as in any country I know of. Wages for farm hands vary from \$45.00 to \$25.00 per month and board, according to the season. As a dairy country I consider Alberta has no equal on this continent, the grasses being so luxuriant and rich. The cost of keeping cattle—milch cows—\$3.00 (12s.) per year in the most severe seasons. The cost of cutting and stacking hay off the prairie is about \$2.50 (10s.) per ton, and there are immense tracts of good hay lands open for settlement. The price of range cattle at present is from \$30.00 (£6) to \$35.00 (£7) per head; milch cows, \$40.00 (£8) to \$50.00 (£10); two-year-olds from \$20.00 to \$25.00, and yearlings from \$15.00 to \$20.00; calves, \$10.00 to \$12.00. Good saddle horses are worth \$100 (£20) each; farm horses, per team, \$300 (£60).

R. HAMILTON.

SHEEP CREEK, Alberta,  
December 27th, 1887.

PINE CREEK, near Calgary, 27th December.

SIR,—In compliance with your request, I have pleasure in giving you the following facts: As you know I am a widow (my husband having died in England in 1884), and I arrived in Calgary from the old country with my family of nine children at the end of Aug., 1884. On the first of September, 1884, I settled on my present location of 320 acres (160 acres homestead and 160 acres pre-emption.)

The land is rolling soil, rich black loam (the garden soil of England), varying in depth from six inches to two feet, with clay subsoil; Pine Creek running through the location; large bush a mile and a half away; the grasses of great variety, long and luxuriant, and from early spring till late autumn the hills and valleys are covered with flowers—some being very beautiful.

I have gone in for mixed farming, but have paid most attention to my cattle, for in them I consider lies my wealth. I have 55 head of stock now, 26 of which are calves, yearlings and two-year-olds that I have raised myself. My only losses have been two calves and a young cow; the latter drowned itself by breaking through the ice on Red Deer Lake last winter.

The routine in the life of the cattle in the summer is:—The cows are milked in the morning, and some time after all the cattle leave the farmyard and wander up the valley to feed; they are brought back in the evening, the cows again milked, and all the cattle, as a rule, stay around the farmyard until after they are milked the next morning. In the winter they go away in the morning to feed and are brought home at night. On windy and very cold days they are fed a little hay morning and night. Last winter, which, as you know, was very trying for cattle in consequence of the cold winds and its length, I fed about one ton of hay per head, and they were all in splendid condition in the spring. The cows were calving all the winter, and 10 calves were born between the months of November and February.

The only shelter the cattle had was an open shed 40 feet long, and the side of the horse stable and hay corral. The cows were put in the horse stable for calving. One time this summer we were milking 18 cows twice a day, and judging from the milk yield the grasses are as succulent as can be wished for; and though the grass dries up in the winter it does not appear to lose its food properties, for the cattle keep up their flesh nearly as well in the winter as in the summer.

You see my cattle receive only the most ordinary attention, but were they treated with the same care that cattle are in the old country I do not think the results could be much better, and certainly for the size of my band the loss has been very small for any country, no matter what care could be bestowed. Pigs breed very successfully, and in the summer are not hand-fed, but feed on the hills off the pea vine patches, weeds and roots that they find. They do not, however, at present pay to keep during the winter when they have to be fed, in consequence of the prices that can be obtained in Calgary for grain and roots.

I had 20 acres under crop last summer, 10 acres of which were oats, four barley and the rest roots and garden stuffs. The oats being on freshly broken land, I was unable to sow them until the middle of May. They, however, thoroughly ripened and I had a good crop. The barley was an excellent crop and ripened by the middle of August. I planted field turnips and mangel-wurzels, as I had done in former years, and had good crops. In my garden I had potatoes, spinach, rhubarb, onions, red lent peas, beans, mustard and cress and radishes, and

had splendid crops of all; the peas and cabbage especially, and which, I should think, would have been difficult to excel.

The only hired help I had during the year was a man for a month in the haying season and for breaking the ten acres of sod in the spring. The rest of the work was done by my family; the field work by my son aged 17. The climate is splendid, and each member of my family has enjoyed perfect health during the 2½ years we have been here. The summer days are never too hot to work out all day and the nights are sufficiently cool to permit of refreshing sleep.

I have been here three winters; two have been very delightful, in those of 1884 and 1885; the greater part of the time there was not sufficient snow for sleighing. Last winter there were long spells of cold with prevailing winds, and was altogether very long and severe. Up to the present this winter the weather has been as perfect as one could desire.

The winters generally set in about the first of January and last, with intermittent spells of warm weather, to the end of March, the cold days being invariably bright and cheering. I am perfectly satisfied with the country; and seeing that none of us had the slightest knowledge of farm life when we came here (my husband having been a brewer in the old country and always lived in towns), I cannot be too thankful for the highly successful results, which, I do not think, could be beaten anywhere.

It is hard work for the first two or three years, but when one gets their buildings up and fencing done, to make a comfortable living and put by at the same time, one need not work nearly so hard as the English working farmer. I should certainly think there is no better field than this for the small English farmer with at least \$1000 capital.

He, with his wife and family, being used to the work, could, I firmly believe, in course of five or six years attain perfect independence. With us, who have to learn everything, of course, it takes longer, but with energy and perseverance there is success for everyone.

I hope I have not made my letter too long, but I have wanted to show how I have succeeded without a husband at the head of my family, and I am sure that where he is left to work, counsel and guide, the results will be far greater.

Yours obediently,

E. M. HUDSON.

J. G. FITZGERALD, Esq.,

Calgary, Alberta.

DEAR SIR.—In reply to your request, I am very glad to write you how I like Alberta as a home. I came to this country in November of 1885, my home previously being in Southwark, S.E., London, E. Almost immediately on my arrival here I found plenty of work at \$1.50 (6s.) per day, and nursing at \$10.00 (£2) per week. The first winter I had an attack of inflammation of the lungs, but was able at the end of two weeks to go to work, and since then have enjoyed good health, never better; in fact, the country agrees so well with me that I do not feel half so old as I did at home. All along I have had as much work as I could wish for, often having to refuse places. As the result of my labours I have now two nice lots, with a house built on them, and comfortably furnished, all paid for with the money earned since I came to Calgary. I have two sons in England, and if they take my advice—they or any wishing to make comfortable homes for themselves—will come to the North-West, for here there is work with good pay for all who are willing to do it, and if people do not prosper here the fault must be in themselves.

I would like to visit my friends in Old England, but not to live there; my only regret is that I did not come out here years sooner.

Yours respectfully,

EMILY FRUER.

J. G. FITZGERALD, Esq.

SIR.—I have been here three years next July, and have had 8 or 9 milch cows since we came, and have found that the grass and climate here is very suitable for them, and that they thrive well for dairy purposes. Although the climate is a little changeable, I find the children

enjoy excellent health and have never been troubled with any sickness, and personally and in other ways I like the country very well.

I remain,

Yours truly,

Mrs. H. B. COSSAR.

CALGARY, Alberta,

December 15th, 1887.

Former home Port Arthur, Ontario.

SIR,—I received yours of the 13th inst., and in reply would state that I have been a resident of this part of the country for eleven years past, during which time I have done more or less farming and gardening *every year* and have *never once failed* to raise a crop, while some of the crops raised have been simply wonderful.

I claim that this district is eminently adapted for mixed farming, we having all the requisites (of course, in an undeveloped state). I further claim that we never will have a country until we have a large population engaged in the above business.

Following specialties to extremes never will make a country, and the sooner we open our eyes to the fact the better.

Of course, to make farming a sure thing, there are parts that will require irrigation some years, but that is quite practicable, and when water is used success is certain.

I have, myself, raised as fine grain of all kinds, and vegetables, as can be raised, also all kinds of small fruits. I am at present experimenting in large fruits of a hardy kind, such as plums and apples, and feel certain that they can be grown with success, all that is required being shelter.

I am growing shelter belts from tree seeds, and cannot complain, as I have trees *four feet high*, the seed of which were planted *eighteen months ago*.

The rate of wages ranges from \$25.00 to \$60.00 for labour according to skill of labourer, while tradesmen get from three to five dollars per diem, but a limited number of skilled labourers will suffice to do all the available work at present.

What is wanted in the country is about the same as is in request in most new countries, viz., men of average intelligence, a little capital, and who are not afraid or ashamed to work to make a living and a home for themselves.

We have all the elements in abundance that are necessary to a self-supporting, rich and independent country, except *intelligent* and *willing* labour, of which we *have none* (comparatively). The land is rich, water pure and plentiful, fuel in abundance everywhere, timber easily within reach, and the climate such that (if taken advantage of and no time wasted) there is plenty of time to grow mature and save crops of all kinds of hardy grains and vegetables.

As for raising stock it is superfluous for me to state anything, except to say that, owing to the wondrous adaptability of the country to that business, people have run to the other extreme and imagine that stock of all kinds require neither care nor attention, which is a mistake.

Yours, &c.,

C. KETTLES.

PINCHER CREEK, Alberta,

December 21st, 1887.

Former home Ottawa, Ontario.

DEAR SIR,—In reply to your letter of December 13th, asking me for my opinion of this district and what it is suited for. First I might say that I have lived here for ten years, eight of which I have been farming—for the past five years mixed farming, which I find pays the best, and is what I think the district is admirably suited for. The finest kind of grassed grows in profusion, and water, the purest, is plentiful, and that is what stock require. Then during the mild winters we have it is not necessary to feed stock for more than two months in the year, and that is the time to get action on what we grow on the farm, and if we have not plenty of roots and grain it is our own fault, for we have the soil and climate to grow them. Nearly all kinds of vegetables do well, as also does wheat, oats, barley, and particularly flax.

Dairying pays well, and there could not be a better place for the dairy farmer, the grasses being rich and the water pure. Butter is always a high price here. Cheese-making would pay well here. None has yet been made. In fact, for genuine mixed farming this is the place.

Yours,

MACLEOD, Alberta,

December 20th, 1887.

Mr. Grier formerly resided in the Province of Ontario.

D. J. GRIER.

DEAR SIR.—In answer to your request for information on farming in this district (Alberta), I have found it a grand success. My farm is situated four miles south of Macleod, upon bench land. I raise wheat, oats, barley, peas, and all kinds of vegetables. Wheat averages 31 bushels per acre, oats 40 bushels per acre and weight 42½ lbs. per bushel, barley 45 bushels per acre, peas 90 bushels per acre, and all kinds of vegetables in abundance.

Average wages per year, \$25.00 to \$30.00 per month; summer wages, \$35.00 to \$40.00 per month. Hay is plentiful. There is a good market—\$12.00 to \$15.00 per ton.

JOHN RATHWELL.

FORT MCLEOD,

December 26th, 1887.

DEAR SIR.—I have much pleasure in complying with the request contained in your letter of the 13th inst.

I consider this country admirably adapted for mixed farming; more so, I think, than any other portion of the North-West that I have been in.

Owing to the comparatively mild winters we enjoy, stock of all kinds can remain out most winters without provision being made for feeding them other than nature provides; but stock growing is most successful when carried on in a smaller scale than is usual in this country and assisted by agricultural farming.

The capabilities of the country for growing all kinds of cereals and roots have long been successfully tested. The yield and quality will compare well with any country.

Wages range from \$30.00 to \$40.00 per month, according to work required.

Yours truly,

MACLEOD, Alberta,

December 18th, 1887.

Former home Limerick, Ireland.

E. H. MAUNSELL.

MACLEOD, Alberta, January 15th, 1888.

SIR.—In answer to your letter to me, asking me for my views concerning the adaptability of the country for mixed farming, I beg to tell you that the country is well adapted for mixed farming, as I have been very successful myself for the last 14 years that I have been in Alberta.

Any industrious person can do well here; the climate is very favourable for all kinds of stock, cattle, horses, sheep, hogs and all kinds of fowl. You can grow almost every kind of vegetables here that can be grown in Eastern Canada, and grow wheat, oats, barley. Farm wages are from \$30 to \$40 per month; house servants from \$10 to \$20 per month.

Hoping my views will be of some benefit to encourage immigration.

I remain yours,

JOSEPH MCFARLAND.

MACLEOD, January 15th, 1888.

SIR.—In answer to your letter to me, asking me for my views in regard to this country, I answer I think it a very good country for anyone who wishes to make a good home.

I myself was raised in New York; still I should prefer to live in Alberta to anywhere else. I am never lonesome, as I have plenty to do looking after my poultry and house duties.

I have spent ten winters here and don't think it any colder than some of the Northern States; well adapted for butter making and for raising all kinds of fowl.

I am, Sir,

yours respectfully,

MACELLO MCFARLAND.

NEW OXLEY, Alberta, N.W.T., December 26th, 1887.

SIR,—I have your favour requesting, on behalf of the Department of Agriculture, at Ottawa, my opinion of the suitability of this district for mixed farming, the rate of wages paid, and any other information which would be valuable as a guide to intending settlers.

In reply I beg to submit the following: My experience in this part of Alberta District, viz., Fort Macleod and Willow Creek, commenced five years ago. I have resided 30 miles north of Fort Macleod over four years. I have tested during that time the adaptability of this part of the country to producing the usual crops of grain and roots, such as are grown in the Province of Ontario. From experience and observation the result has been highly satisfactory.

Wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, turnips and garden vegetables yield as good a return in this part of the district as in the County of Peel, Ontario, where I resided over 20 years, farming and raising thoroughbred stock.

I prefer this country to Ontario for mixed farming.

Farm wages have varied between \$25 to \$45 per month and board for haying and harvest and threshing.

I would advise the intending settler to devote his attention principally to live stock, and not to believe statements which have been widely circulated regarding this country being a place where cattle thrive and do well all the year round without any provision against winter storms, that there is very trifling loss, etc.; such reports are untrue; the losses have been very heavy and will continue to be very great until food and shelter is provided for winter.

I believe this country will become one of the wealthiest portions of the Dominion when the Government opens it up for settlement and its merits properly made known; when the herds and flocks will be distributed among small owners who will provide food and shelter to stand the severe winter storms.

Yours truly,

JOHN R. CRAIG.

NOTE.—I am indebted to Sheriff Campbell, of Macleod, and E. G. Kirby, Esq., of Lethbridge, for this and the preceding letters from the Macleod District.—COMPILER.

J. G. FITZGERALD, Esq.,

Secretary of the Agricultural Society,

Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

SIR,—I cheerfully comply with your request to give you my views, in as concise a form as possible, of the District of Alberta as a field for settlers and the investment of capital.

I trust it will not be looked upon as egotism, but rather as a guarantee to those who read my statements, that I know something of the subject when I state that through the last forty years I have had considerable experience and chance for observation both in old Canada and many States of the American Union, and that during about five years I held the responsible position of Inspector of Farms and Real Estate Securities for one of the most successful British Loan Companies doing business in Canada.

#### Extent of Fertile Land.

That part of the District of Alberta, already proven to be well suited for general farming by the methods followed in the old Provinces of the Dominion of Canada, as well as in the United States, extends from the American Line on the south for 400 miles north, and from the foot of the Rocky Mountains for 200 miles eastward.

The southern half of this area is well adapted for raising horses, cattle and sheep, and fattening them without other food than the rich bunch or buffalo grass which grows everywhere spontaneously, and which cures itself on the stem, retaining its nutritious properties all the year round without cutting or covering excepting what it may be covered by the light falls of snow during the winter months, which covering rather improves it than otherwise, and is very seldom deep enough to prevent the animals eating it off the ground.

During the last five years many thousand cattle and sheep, and a few thousand horses, have been raised in the southern half of Alberta on the rich grass without any feeding or shelter other than the shelter found along the hill sides or in clumps of trees. The cattle and sheep when taken off the pasture are fat and fit for any butcher's shop in the world, and the horses are rolling fat.

While the south is so well adapted for cattle ranching, it is also an excellent country for mixed farming. But the northern country is not so well adapted for raising live stock altogether out of doors, there being more snow and cold; it is, however equally good, if not better, than the south in most respects for general farming. The cattle business is no longer an experiment, for besides furnishing the local markets, the Mounted Police, the Indians who are fed by the Government, the railway demand, the mines, &c., considerable numbers have been shipped to Montreal by the Canadian Pacific Railway from Calgary, and from Montreal to Great Britain, giving entire satisfaction in the English and Scotch markets.

Indeed, the whole district will make a fine farming country, except a strip twenty to thirty miles wide, known as the Foot Hills along the eastern base of the mountains, which is better for sheep raising than any other purpose.

Cattle raising on the ranches, although not the most profitable use that the soil can be put to, has demonstrated quicker than any other thing could have done the richness of the soil and moderate character of the climate; but, as a business, it must gradually give way to mixed farming on a smaller scale. For example, a rancher having a lease of 100,000 acres from the Government could keep on his ranch 15,000 to 20,000 head of young and old animals, turning out for market 3,000 fat animals every year, and employing, at the most, ten men. If the 100,000 acres were divided into farms of 160 acres (which is fully as much land as each farmer in the garden Province of Ontario occupies on an average), and each of these farms of 160 acres was owned and worked by a family of 5 persons, the land would, with proper working, sustain the same number of animals it now does, besides supporting the immensely increased population and producing grain, root crops, and butter and cheese to sell, thus enriching the country far beyond what can ever be done by ranching exclusively.

### **Wheat Raising.**

There is still a doubt in the minds of some practical men about raising wheat for export. I have seen some very fine plots of wheat here, and some farmers have experimented with success for seven or eight years; but there being no mills, and foreign price so low, it was little use to raise wheat when so many other products would pay far better.

### **Other Grains.**

Barley, oats, and peas grow and mature well all over the territory. In fact, I have scarcely ever seen as fine, bright, plump samples of these grains as are grown in Alberta.

### **Root Crops.**

The quantity and quality of potatoes, turnips, carrots, beets, with any kind of fair working is simply marvellous.

### **Timothy.**

Some good timothy has been raised by way of trial, and the native grass is capable of largely increased production under cultivation. I have doubts about clover ever being a success.

### **Fruit.**

Small fruits, such as strawberries, gooseberries, currants, grow wild, and will do well if cultivated. Hardy varieties of apples and plums, it is thought, will do well, but the country is yet too young to know much about them by actual test. On account of the cool summer nights peaches and grapes would not likely mature.

### **Butter and Cheese.**

If there be one place in North America which Providence has designed more than another for producing butter and cheese it is the District of Alberta. The extraordinary rich grass, pure water, clear atmosphere, and temperate climate combine to make it a land of milk, butter,

and cheese of the very first rank. Those who keep milch cows must provide food and shelter for them for two or three months in each winter. At present wild hay can be got at low prices on Government and Canadian Pacific Railway Company's lands. This supply will disappear as the country fills up with settlers. Dairying will pay better than any other business in the farming line for many reasons already shewn, but especially on account of the fact that more money's worth can be shipped in butter and cheese to England for the cost in freight than of any other commodity.

#### Fuel.

Considerable timber grows along the river banks and on the hills, while in some places there are great stretches of prairie with no wood at all. Coal is the fuel of the future. Nowhere probably in the world is coal more generally distributed than in Alberta. As yet it has been worked in a few places only.

#### Building Material and Fencing.

On the upper parts of the many streams from the mountains, and in the mountains of Alberta and British Columbia, joining Alberta, there is a great variety and quantity of timber, among which are cedar and fir of gigantic size and magnificent quality, which can be floated down the streams or distributed by the Canadian Pacific Railway, which passes through the timber region. Freestone and limestone are found in very many places.

#### Minerals.

Copper, lead, silver and iron abound in the mountains near the railway. Gold and mica are found, but not much worked yet.

#### Who should come here, and when.

Men with some practical knowledge of farming and cattle-raising, and having some money to make a start with, and good sense enough to be very careful how they spend their money when they get here; young married men or men with grown up sons and daughters; these are the people most wanted and most likely to succeed. Mechanics and miners get good wages, but there is danger in too many of these coming until more capital is brought into the country to develop its resources. *Gentlemen without capital*, clerks and those only accustomed to light work are an over supply now. The best time for emigrants, except those who have money that they can live on for some time, to arrive in any part of the North-West Territories is in the spring, not earlier than the middle of March. From that time, in ordinary seasons, they can live in tents, having the whole summer before them for work on the land, building their houses, stables, &c.

#### Capital.

Capital is very much wanted to develop the coal and metal, build smelting works and start the manufacture of certain goods for which there is large sale, and for which the raw material can be got here—woollen factories, tanneries, moulding shops, furniture making on a small scale, will all pay now and soon develop into very large proportions. There is no better place than Calgary in the world for a beef canning establishment. Many young men have come here from England with money, but possessing no practical ideas how to use it.

#### Comparison.

Comparing climate, soil and seasons of Alberta with the Province of Quebec and the North-Eastern States, this district is immeasurably ahead. Compared with the Province of Ontario it is equal, though different in many particulars and superior in many respects. Compared with Manitoba, Dakota, Montana, &c., this territory is so far superior that they should not be spoken about in the same day. There is some cold weather in Alberta, and let no one come here thinking there is not, but the terrible windstorms, snowstorms, cyclones, blizzards

and waterspouts of the former places are totally unknown in Alberta. Compared with Manitoba, Alberta has many things in common, pure air, healthy climate, &c. Against the wheat of Manitoba, Alberta has cattle, sheep and horses and their products, which never can be equalled in Manitoba. The water of Alberta is absolutely pure and plenty of it. The temperature averages at least twenty degrees higher during the cold season. The winter is two months shorter, while both hard and soft coal abound, and timber, lumber, shingles and fencing material is much more easily got in Alberta than in Manitoba.

When Winnipeg has grown out of the mud in ten short years to be an important and solid city sending out its millions of wheat; when Minneapolis, which I knew thirty years ago as a lumbering hamlet buying its bread and pork in St. Louis, has become a city of 180,000, and one of the greatest milling centres in the world, why not Alberta and its capital town of Calgary do likewise, only more rapidly?

Yours truly,

WESTLEY F. ORR.

January 2nd, 1888.

### ALBERTA AND HER FUTURE.

Written for the Pamphlet by J. I. E.

Comparatively few people, not excepting the residents of the country, have as yet been able to form an estimate of the practically inexhaustible wealth waiting development in the Province of Alberta, N.W.T., Canada.

At the present time (January, 1888) perhaps the cattle industry claims first rank in volume and importance; some 100 to 120,000 head of well bred cattle are now within the borders of this "land of promise." Sheep and horses with every kind of live stock, poultry, etc., are also coming to the front as an important addition to the wealth of Alberta. Two chartered banks, with the private bank of Messrs. Lafferty & Smith, do the chief banking business of this rapidly rising country.

During the winter of 1886-7 the weather was severe with unusually deep snows for Alberta (from three to six inches being the usual depth), and caused losses amongst the cattle of settlers and the Pilgrim cattle brought in late in the fall of 1886. Young cattle and cows on the ranges also suffered to a greater extent than usual, but acclimated cattle of more mature and stronger constitutions wintered with scarcely any additional loss on ordinary years.

Notwithstanding the losses thus made by the severity of the winter above noted, it cannot be said that the experience *gained* was all *loss* to the intelligent cattleman, for by it cattle raisers in Alberta learned the necessity of weaning calves in the late fall and also preparing hay for winter feeding young and weak stock if needed; whilst on the other hand it fully demonstrates the fact that the most severe winters in Alberta were not inimical to the health and well doing of acclimated herds.

There are still large areas of desirable lands in Alberta to be utilized for cattle raising or for dairy farming, and leaving out of the question the success or otherwise of mixed farming, there can be no doubt cattle raising and dairy farming are the most profitable and easy of management, and these money making industries may be truly said to be indigenous to the country.

Could the industrious and struggling agriculturist of Europe but once realize the fact that mines of untold wealth are here laid open to him and simply asking him to come, and, with the magic touch of industry, usher into existence an easy independence for himself, and thus adding to the future greatness of this truly beautiful country, how few would be left to battle with poverty and anxiety in the older countries of the world.

In the few lines above written some hints have been given as to the industries in connection with cattle, horses and other live stock, poultry, etc., as being at present the staple products of our great North-West in general and Alberta in particular. But what shall be said of the fact that within the confines of this prolific Province of Alberta lies immense seams of the finest coal, of which the following analysis will give some idea of value, etc., and which have already been found in the immediate neighbourhood of iron ore of good quality and in almost unlimited quantity.

## Analysis of Coal from Rosebud River.

Specific gravity.....	1.48	Volatile combustible matter....	29.22
Heating power.....	11.93	Fixed carbon.....	55.54
Moisture or water.....	6.93	Ash.....	8.31

The coal workings of Alberta so far have been confined to the Lethbridge or Galt mines, some 80 miles south of Calgary, and notwithstanding the disadvantages of the output of these mines, being carried 100 miles by narrow gauge railway to be transhipped on the Canadian Pacific Railway at Dunmore, this line has been worked with great success, and a large amount of money, \$500,000, is said will be immediately expended widening their track, improving railway, rolling stock, etc.

Coal is also extensively mined at "Anthracite," a town near Banff, in the mountains. This coal is an anthracite coal, and has already been very favourably received on the Pacific Coast, the first shipment to San Francisco having been readily bought up; and so extensive are these western orders for this coal that very little coal from these mines will be shipped east. A few other mines, worked by individual enterprise, are also sending their output to Calgary and other places at a price of \$7.50 per ton.

About 45 miles north-east of Calgary, in the Red Deer Valley, lies a very beautiful section of country, extending from the Red Deer River in the east to the Foot Hills of the Rocky Mountains in the west. This country is made up of rolling prairie with large stretches of fine table lands through which are cut deep coulees; many of these coulees are 500 feet deep. In the bottom of these there is usually a running stream or river of ice cold clear water even in the height of summer. The Rosebud River, Kneec Hill Creek and others are rivers running through beautiful valleys and coulees that make them very interesting to the tourist and especially so to the mineralogist; for on the sides of these rivers are found seams of six feet in thickness and upwards of coal—an analysis of which is given in this notice. Professor McCharles, of Winnipeg, gives the opinion that this coal will be found even much superior to the analysis when mined a few feet in from the outer surface of the seams, and as the *lay* is almost perfectly horizontal, drift mining will be practised in these future mines much cheaper than by shaft sinking or rock blasting. Even the inhabitants of Calgary and surrounding places are mostly at the present time in happy ignorance of the great wealth of the practically inexhaustible treasures awaiting development at their very doors.

These magnificent valleys or coulees with their seams of coal, hematite, etc., also show strong signs of the existence in this country of natural gas, etc., etc., and without looking for the more precious metals, which are said to have been found here in large paying quantities, there is ample riches in the luxuriant grasses of its well sheltered coulees and its table lands, its immense seams of superior coal, with its rich deposits of iron, etc., etc., to make the valley of the Red Deer a veritable Eldorado of profitable industry and the beautiful Province of Alberta one of the most favoured spots on the earth.

The value of these great coal deposits to the settler, and say nothing of its commercial value at home and in the western states of the Union, to the south of Canada, cannot be over estimated now; for as soon as Canadian coal can reach the busy scenes of mining and other great industries in the western cities of America; when Alberta coal can freely go south as it has already gone west, "who can count the millions of wealth in Alberta's great future?"

## IMMIGRANT AGENT'S LETTER.

To J. G. FITZGERALD, Esq.,

Calgary.

December 31st, 1888.

MY DEAR SIR.—It is with pleasure I answer the questions you have addressed to me in my public character as Immigration Agent for the Dominion of Canada, in the District of Alberta, in the North-West Territories.

In answer to your first question, I will say that I was born in the Province of Quebec, and constantly resided there till the Canadian Government appointed me Immigration Agent for the North-West, and I have occupied such position for five years.

To the next question, the second one, "what are my impressions concerning this country compared with those of my native province," I will answer that, knowing as I do the District of Alberta, I prefer it a great deal to the Province of Quebec, and I would enumerate a great many advantages of a nature to attract emigrants if only known to them—

1. The weather and the fertility of our soil are equal if not superior to any to be found anywhere throughout Canada.

2. The land is already ready, without any more trouble, to receive the plough of the farmer, which we ought to consider as a great boon when we remember the trouble and hardship the poor immigrant has to go through when he happens to settle in the wooded parts of Canada. There the immigrant will find ready at hand, not only as much land as he wishes, but abundance of hay and pasture as he requires to receive stock on a large or small scale according to his means, and the climate cannot be beaten for stock-raising. The cold in winter, though sometimes sharp, has nothing to incommodate men or animals; in case of hard winters, as happen sometimes, they must provide for sheep and cattle, but horses winter out at all times. The snow is seldom deep and lasts not more than three months. The soil is so rich that in good years the wheat gives us from 30 to 49 bushels per acre, and oats 60 bushels. Although corn may fail sometimes, as in any country, experience shows that crops come to maturity when put down early in the spring, and when the ground has been prepared by fall ploughing; so I advise early sowing, and further say that any man coming to this part of the North-West will be better off after one or two years than he will be after being settled ten years in the Eastern Provinces.

3. In answer to the question concerning hired men and servant girls, I have to say that there is always a great request for servant girls, whether at the farm houses or in the hotels and private houses in town. At the present moment I have a great many applications from the country, as well as from the towns, and am not able to supply the demands addressed to me.

Men are almost sure to always find work, whether as lumbermen or assistant farmers; the coal mines and the ranches employ plenty of hands. The wages of servant girls average between \$12 to \$20 per month, those of the men from \$26 to \$40, according to the season of the year or the capacity of the men. Mechanics, as carpenters and other trades, are paid from \$2.50 to \$3 per day.

As for the climate, I affirm it is the most pleasant and salubrious of all North America, bracing and wholesome for the health. A country with abundance of pure water and fuel, in firewood and coal.

Another advantage which is not to be overlooked is that the immigrant in coming here will find everywhere schools for the children and churches for worship of all denominations, Catholics as well as Protestants, and will find the ministers spreading the Gospel of Christ to all who are ready to listen according to their tastes or religious dispositions.

If I am to judge from the numerous letters I have received from the Eastern Provinces and Europe, I should say there will be a large immigration next spring, especially men with money to start new ranches.

I sincerely congratulate you for the design you take in trying to make known to the capitalists of the world this part of Canada, that requires only capital to develop the mineral resources it contains.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient and respectful servant,  
J. Z. C. MIQUELON.

To J. G. FITZGERALD, Esq.,  
Calgary.

DEAR SIR.—In June, 1883, I arrived on the banks of the Bow River, near Calgary, accompanied by my wife and eight children, four boys and four girls, with the intention of farming near Calgary, if, after making due enquiries, suitable land could be found.

After obtaining all the information that could be obtained from the old settlers, and seeing the favourable appearance of the crops as they then presented themselves, I located myself on the banks of Fish Creek, 8 miles south of Calgary, and have never since regretted the venture of coming, as I think it would be difficult to find a country that will beat the Province of Alberta, with its splendid soil and most enjoyable climate.

Calgary, as we first saw it, was in embryo, consisting of only the barracks of the North-West Mounted Police, the stores of the Hudson Bay Co., and of J. G. Baker & Co., and of a few log huts and tents scattered here and there; now it is a rapidly rising town of quite 3,000 inhabitants, with stores and shops of every description, fully capable of meeting all demands upon them by the farmers, lumber mill owners, and proprietors of the numerous industries now established, and continually being established, in the mountains. These stores are, as a rule, owned by men of great energy, as an inspection of them would convince the most sceptical, and in any one of them it would be difficult to ask for any article in their line of business that would not be at once produced, and at a very reasonable price.

It is quite possible, and even desirable, that an emigrant coming here should bring as little as possible with him, except money; otherwise he, not knowing what is most useful here, may bring with him a quite useless lot of impediments, causing a corresponding diminution of his available capital, whereas, when on the spot, he can find out what he really requires and purchase them in Calgary.

The soil of this Province is first-class, with but few exceptions. It is composed of from 12 to 18 inches of black loam, and in some places sandy, and other places clayey sub-soil with a quantity of lime, and is most admirably adapted for growing wheat.

I have grown a few acres of wheat every year. Red Fife has been the kind selected, and every year, except this last, have raised about 25 bushels to the acre of No. 1 hard wheat. Of wheat, however, up to the present, a very small quantity has been grown in this country because there is no "grist-mill" in this vicinity, but once such a mill is established it would not lack wheat to grind. Oats are the main crop. These yield from 50 to 60 bushels to the acre, weighing from 39 to 40 lbs. and upwards to the bushel. Barley averages 40 bushels to the acre, which is, as a rule, fed to pigs, as until beer and liquors are allowed to be manufactured in the Territories there is little demand for it for any other purpose.

The crops of vegetables are most luxuriant. The average yield of potatoes, on the roughly cultivated soil, is 250 bushels to the acre, but on ground manured and prepared I think I can safely say it is nearer 400 bushels of large potatoes, averaging over 1 lb. each (many from two pounds and upwards). Turnips, beets, carrots, and cabbages! I am almost afraid to say the quantity for fear of its being considered an exaggeration; but this I may say, that it would be almost impossible for the ground to contain more, and all splendid as regards size. Onions of good size I have failed to raise, but, as my neighbors all round me have managed to succeed with them, I suppose it must be my fault, not that of the soil.

The grasses here are first-class for cattle; during an average winter the cattle find their own living. With no stabling or food other than what they procure for themselves, our horses and cattle passed through the winters of 1883-84-85, and came out fat in the spring. The winters of 1885-86 we had stables and hay for horses, but the cattle had to shift for themselves, and still with good results.

It was only last winter, 1886-87, that on account of the depth of snow we were compelled to feed the cattle during the months of January and February. I mention these facts to show what can be done, for we have not lost from cold or privation a single animal since we have been here, not disputing for one moment that the stock would thrive much better if properly housed and fed.

The winters here are short. Fifty, forty and sixty days respectively have been the length of the past four winters, and these not consecutive days, and to this I attribute greatly the ability of the animal to withstand the cold. For instance, we may have a fortnight to three weeks of very cold weather, thermometer from 10 to 30 below zero during the nights, and from 10 below to 10 above zero during the days, which are mostly bright, sunshiny ones, but this cold weather will be followed by a similar period of warm, spring-like weather, freezing hard at nights, probably 10 to 25 below zero, but ranging in the day time from 35 to 50 above zero. Cattle thus have a chance of recovering any ill effects of the previous cold weather and getting ready to encounter the next spell of cold. Of these spells there are two or three, and the winter is over.

The ground freezes up, as a rule, the middle of November (one year we were ploughing up to the 13th December), and ploughing can be commenced about the first or second week of March. It is quite exceptional for it to be after March 31st. This enables us to get our crops in good time to gain the benefits of the rainy season, which is May and June. After these

rains, except an occasional thunder shower, little more may be looked for before snow falls in November.

Harvest commences from the middle of August and ends from the middle to end of September, and except for damage to the grain by wind and shelling out, it might remain on the field all the winter, so little fear is there of rain. One winter, being otherwise occupied, we did not stack it till the end of November, and found it comparatively undamaged.

When quoting the temperature experience, I speak with a certain amount of authority, for ever since I have been here I have recorded the temperature, both minimum and maximum, daily. This record will be found in another page complete for four years. The reason for my keeping this record was this : When I first came the few people here were divided into two sections, some dozen or so tilling the ground and producing excellent crops, composing the one ; and a similar number of cattle-owners, holding leases of large tracts of lands, declaring that the soil was indifferent and would produce nothing, comprising the other. The lease-holders further maintained that, even if the land would grow a crop, summer frosts would kill it. The farmers, on the other hand, said summer frosts rarely bothered them, and produced their crops as evidence.

Careful examination of the record of the temperature here will show that the farmer was right, and that the aim of the lease-holder was to run down the country and keep settlement out so that they might not be interfered with, but obtain indefinitely their leases from the Government at the ridiculously low rental of one-half penny (one cent) per acre.

There is no doubt that frost in summer can be found as one advances towards the mountains, and of this fact they made the most ; but summer frost is not prevalent unless one goes almost into the Foot Hills.

The land two hundred miles to the north, two hundred miles to the east, and southward to the boundary is nearly all first-class agricultural land waiting to be utilized by the farmer, and capable of sustaining a population equal to the whole of the United Kingdom.

The demand for grain and roots of all descriptions is practically unlimited, and it will take many years for the supply to be equal to the demand. I doubt if it ever will be, looking to the vast mineral resources of all descriptions now lying undeveloped in the Rocky Mountains, only waiting for the capitalist to come and utilize them.

Calgary has made rapid strides notwithstanding the check it and the whole of the North-West Territory received by the rebellion of 1885, owing to the fear intending emigrants had of the Indians.

To us, on the spot, this fear could not be accounted for, as within 8 miles of Calgary are located the Sarem Indians, numbering 400, and within 50 miles the Blackfeet Indians, numbering 4,000, and we should not be frightened at them if they all rose in rebellion together. Out of the whole 4,400 men, they could not number more than 250 fighting men, and about 20 well armed white men would, unless they were hidden in the bush, rout the whole lot. Why, in the whole of the North-West they could not number 1,500 braves even if they were united ; but, distributed as they are in bands of twenty or thirty, hundreds of miles apart in many cases, I much doubt if Indians or half-breeds together could mass above 200 in any one spot. (The Indian knows on which side his bread is buttered.)

At present the majority are clothed and fed by the Government, their only work being amusing themselves shooting game or visiting each other.

There is far less danger from the Indian than the white man, and deeds of violence are far less frequent here than in England.

To show how peaceful and secure everyone felt during the rebellion in 1885, it may be mentioned that, except in small and isolated districts, the actual seat of the rebellion, one might walk into almost every house in the Territory in the dead of the night and find not a door locked or a gun even loaded.

The fear of Indians need keep no settler away, neither need the fear of bears, lynxes, wolves, &c., &c. We only wish we had a few more of such animals. I have never seen any, but if a sportsman has a few months to spare he may, by penetrating into almost inaccessible regions, come across some, but not otherwise. The farmer is left in peace, his only enemies being mice (rats unknown, as yet) and moles, both of which the cat makes sad havoc with. The mosquitoes are troublesome at first, but ploughing diminishes their number very materially.

The climate is dry and bracing ; sun nearly always shining ; the sky beating the Italian

sky in its deep blue tints. I have been caught in a heavy thunder shower in June, at noon, and clothes and boots saturated, and before I have reached home at 3 that afternoon everything has been dry as a bone.

The nights even in midsummer are always cold, about 38 and 40 degrees, which is most refreshing after the hot summer days, but prevent us growing successfully such crops as Indian corn or hops, or any other crops requiring warm nights. Cucumbers, melons, and tomatoes ripen occasionally as in England, and I think that most things that are successfully raised in England can be raised here. Fruit, such as currants, gooseberries, cherries, strawberries, grow wild in abundance. Apples, pears, plums, are being tried, and so far with success. The chief danger with fruit trees in England lies in the trees blossoming too soon in a very early spring and being cut off by the frost in April or later. Now, this danger is entirely averted here, because, no matter how warm February, March, or April may be, the trees do not come into leaf before May. The reason of this is that the ground is, in winter, frozen to a depth of about 3 feet, and until this is all thawed out, which is not before May, the tree shows no signs of life; thus the tree cannot blossom until all danger of frost is over.

The water supply is of the best. Mountain streams abound in all directions; and, if not located on a stream, a well of from 15 to 20 feet deep will generally strike water of the purest description. Most of the streams also are well stocked with fish.

Of game, the farmer sees little, except it be wild geese, ducks, prairie chickens and rabbits; of these there are plenty.

The land regulations of the Government are very liberal, far more so than those of the United States. Even if the regulations were fulfilled to the letter they are easy; but if the Government see that a man is a *bona fide* settler, doing his utmost, they relax the conditions to a great extent. I have known a man to be allowed to absent himself from his homestead for a year if good cause be shown, and if he has been unable to pay at the proper time for his right to pre-empt a second 160 acres, to be allowed an extension of time for so doing.

It is only the land-grabber, who endeavours to hold for speculative purposes, making land scarce where there is plenty, that the Government ever interferes with.

Taxes are very light at present in this district. We have none except a small school tax of 4s. in the £ on value, and this enables us to have our children educated free of any additional cost except books.

The Canadian postal facilities are very good; newspapers are delivered almost free; seeds can be sent by post up to 4 lbs. in weight at 4d. for every quarter of a pound.

The Government have established at Ottawa a Central Experimental Farm, where any farmer in the Dominion may have his seeds tested free; and, further, the Government will carry his samples of seed to the farm and back free of all charges.

A farmer can make a start in a small way if he has about £200; of course the more the better. I have known many a man start with nothing, working out for wages, doing from time to time odd jobs on his farm, work his way into a comfortable farm in about three years; but this requires great industry and perseverance.

A capitalist can find far more opportunities for investment than in England; he can obtain from 8 per cent. to 10 per cent. in first class freehold security. On ordinary mercantile ventures, such as in England would give from 5 per cent. to 8 per cent., he can obtain from 10 per cent. to 15 per cent., and with no more risk.

A workingman willing to put his hand to anything can always obtain good wages, varying from £5 to £7 per month, with board, in summer; from £3 to £6, with board, per month during the two or three winter months.

The artisan, who, in the old country, is out of work can obtain none in any other branch, whereas here if industriously inclined to turn his hand to anything, can always obtain work. A working woman probably as much, with the probability that before she has been here many months she will be a working wife, as there are very many poor, lone men living on their farms all alone, only waiting for a woman to present herself.

Only the idler need stay away; he is looked down upon, and is not wanted. It is only the man who works, whether with his hands or his brain, who is respected here.

The man who comes out here with the determination of working is bound to succeed; but the most wanted is the farmer who, with such a splendid soil and climate, and the high prices commanded for his produce, cannot fail to realize very handsome profits, and in the course of a few years is in an independent position.

I was a merchant for twenty years in the old country, in a fairly successful way of business. I came out here because I thought I should like the life free from the trammels of modern society and the worries and anxiety connected with the life of an ordinary English merchant, and I have not been disappointed.

There are no unnecessary appearances to be kept up, and it is not necessary to spend large sums in outside show for no other reason than to maintain a supposed respectability.

Here a man after investing his capital need not tax his brains unduly. He buys cattle or equips his farm, using ordinary intelligence and working hard manually. When he comes home of an evening his work is done for the day : he has almost as perfect health as is possible to man ; he has an appetite for his food ; he has no worry or anxiety on his mind, and when he goes to bed he does so with the full assurance of a good night's repose, and not kept awake half the night by thinking over the possibilities of the morrow, as I know to be the case with the majority of business men in the old country.

I remain,  
Yours faithfully,  
S. W. SHAW.

MIANAPORE, near Calgary, Alberta,  
January 20th, 1888.

To J. G. FITZGERALD, Esq.

CALGARY, Alberta, January 23rd, 1888.

SIR,—I take the liberty of addressing you a few lines in reference to my experience of Alberta.

My first trip through this country was in the spring of 1883 ; the next the following autumn. I have driven across the country from this point to Edmonton on the north, and south about to the International boundary line, a distance of three hundred and fifty miles north and south, and there is scarcely an acre of poor land in all that extent of country ; and as far as I can learn, you could travel as many miles north of Edmonton and find good land all through.

The country has a very attractive appearance ; it is rolling, with very pretty bluffs of timber scatter'd through : in fact, in some places you would imagine they had been planted and laid out in natural parks by some careful hand.

To add to the beauty and benefit of the country, every five or ten miles you will have to cross a pretty little spring creek or a good sized river ; although I must confess the first time I travelled across the country I did not think some of the rivers so beautiful when I had to ford them with a horse and buckboard ; but now quite a number of them have been bridged over, so that travelling is a pleasure. We have the Rocky Mountains to the west ; a magnificent background for scenery.

I was born in the County of Peel, Ontario, near Toronto ; have travelled over a great part of that country ; also have travelled over Manitoba and settled parts of the North-West Territory, and find no part that suited me as well as Alberta. I think it is the garden of Canada. We have a great many natural advantages here that no other part of the Dominion possesses. We have unlimited amount of both hard and soft coal ; minerals of almost all kinds ; the purest waters that can be had in any country.

We have a No. 1 mixed farming country. I have seen repeatedly year after year grain of all kinds grown successfully ; and, I believe, the finest cabbage and roots I ever saw in any country. Why, just fancy last season I raised in my own garden, only a small plat of ground, about the sixteenth part of an acre, all the vegetables required for our own use, including radishes, green peas, lettuce, onions, beans and potatoes. Some of the latter weighed *between two and three pounds each*.

I have seen in this part of Alberta large bands of cattle and horses that have never been stabled ; but I believe the man who will put up temporary sheds and a limited amount of hay for protection for a month or two through the winter season will be well compensated for his trouble.

There is one thing you will find here ; almost every one you meet in this country is well satisfied with their lot. I consider there are the very best openings here for manufacturing.

industries, smelting works, a tannery, woolen mills, etc.; also the dairy business and a grist mill will be something we shall require in the near future.

I have no hesitation in recommending any of my friends who may chance to read this letter to come to Alberta. Any person that will make up his mind to go to work, with a limited amount of means, can do well here.

Yours respectfully,

JOSEPH MAN.

## WHAT THE DOMINION LAND SURVEYORS SAY ABOUT ALBERTA.

### Extracts from the Annual Report of the Department of the Interior for the Year 1886.

Speaking of Alberta, Mr. Pearce says:—At the present time there are within the grazing portions of our North-West about 104,000 cattle, 11,000 horses and 25,000 sheep. This estimate will be found very close, having been obtained by a personal visit to a majority of the ranches, and enquiry from the best sources as to the remainder. Of the above, 34,000 cattle, 3,500 horses and 7,000 sheep came in this year, being an addition by importation over and above the natural increase.

About 26,000 cattle, 2,000 horses and 6,000 sheep came in from the United States : the remainder were imported from Ontario and British Columbia. The number, so far as cattle are concerned, were about equally divided, but the great majority of the horses came from British Columbia.

Eleven thousand five hundred head of horses and cattle are owned by 71 persons, who are non-leaseholders, and about one half of whom have not a homestead entry, an average of about 162 head each. These cattle are, in the majority of cases, grazing on leased land. It will be noticed that there has been a very large increase in all lines during the past year. The output of wool will soon be such as to warrant the erection of factories for its manufacture, and the country is to be congratulated on the probability, in the near future, of exporting blankets and other articles of wool in addition to that provided for home consumption.

### Cavalry Horses.

During the past season certain British cavalry officers visited Canada, and among other places took a run through our range country. They expressed themselves as very much pleased with its possibilities in regard to the production of a healthy and muscular horse, suitable for cavalry purposes. All that is required is the stock to breed from—nature has been extremely bountiful in providing all the other requisites. It is not without the limits of probability that within a few years a large output of horses of this class may take place from the North-West. Nor need the export of horses be confined to this class only—the race horse, trotter, carriage, roadster, general purpose and heavy draught can equally well and as cheaply be bred. Care in the selection of dams and sires must be observed, and the present abominable practice of branding, which so grossly disfigures, should cease. The sooner our horsemen drop their Cayuse dams and procure good ones, the sooner will they be on the highway to fortune. In the past when the country was settling up these animals served a good purpose, but their day, if not now passed, very soon will be.

Within the past year the Government has very wisely taken the steps necessary to the creation of public reserves along the route of the Canadian Pacific Railway, to protect the magnificent scenery met with on that route through the Rocky, Selkirk and Gold ranges of the mountains.

The writer has crossed this continent on the Southern Pacific, the Central and Union Pacific, the Northern, the Denver and Rio Grande, into the heart of Colorado, but the Canadian Pacific far surpasses them all, and it would be an act of national disgrace if every possible step were not taken to prevent in the slightest degree the marring of the wonderful beauties which nature has conferred on the Canadian route.

At the Banff Park there is, in addition to the scenery, the wonderful hot springs, so productive of pleasure and health giving properties. They have, however, during the past year been brought so prominently before the public by correspondents of the press, and tourists' letters, that it is unnecessary here to more than allude to them.

There are many other points in the Rocky Mountains which, in the near future, it would be well to reserve; amongst which may be mentioned the vicinity around those lakes which rise near the 49th parallel and empty by the Waterton river into the Belly river; also portions of the Crow's Nest Pass and approaches thereto.

REPORT OF WILLIAM PEARCE,  
Superintendent of Mines.

WINNIPEG, October 31st, 1886.

**Extract from Report of C. A. Biggar, D.L.S.**

CALGARY, January 2nd, 1888.

SIR,—Your instructions directing me to survey and locate the Edmonton trail from Red Deer river to Calgary, and thence to Macleod, and the trail from Macleod to Blackfoot Crossing, were received on the 31st May. \* \* \* \* \* From Calgary to Fish Creek the settlers have fenced the greater part of the old trail and left an allowance as a public highway. \* \* \* \* \* That part of the country through which our operations were carried on has been so often and well described by different surveyors that further comment is unnecessary. I might, however, add that the development of this part of our Great North-West has been even beyond the expectations of the most sanguine.

From Calgary to Sheep Creek well improved farms are seen in every direction, and the crops realized by the settlers are very encouraging.

South of Sheep Creek the country is more suitable for grazing, and large bands of cattle roam at large. Judging from their appearance, I should say that the success of this industry is already assured.

**Extract from Report of Otto J. Klotz, D.T.S.**

January 7th, 1887.

\* \* \* \* \* Passing through Calgary, it may not be out of place to say a few words regarding it. Four years previously I had visited the site—then a mere trading post. It is most picturesquely situated in the valley of the Bow river, at the confluence of the Elbow river with the former. There are some fine brick and sandstone buildings erected in the town, the stone being quarried on the river bank.

There are numerous stores, two saw-mills, banks, schools and churches, and from Calgary a great deal of freighting is done for Edmonton and other northern points. The valley is fertile agricultural land, and the adjoining bench lands are covered with nutritious grasses, well adapted for roots and vegetables and stock raising. This latter circumstance makes Calgary the principle shipping port for cattle.

A British Columbia rancher speaking to me about the merits of this vicinity for cattle, with special reference to the winter, said: "I tell you if you find a place where it is not common to have sleighs, I think that a pretty good sign for cattle." He has now transferred a part of his herd of cattle from British Columbia to the east slope of the mountains, where moreover, water is more abundant and better.

Altogether Calgary is a very thriving town, and it is questionable whether any other place in the Territory has a brighter future before it.

We ascend the picturesque valley of the Bow, which gradually narrows, until we are surrounded by mountains.

In them we find Canmore prettily situated in a level expanse of about three-quarters of a mile. The most interesting feature here are the three conglomerate columns (one is a symmetrical cone) standing together on the side of a hill, about fifty feet above the plain, and themselves about thirty feet high. The mass is a coarse gravel with boulders, and although

cemented is somewhat friable. A cursory examination shewed no shells therein. The hill is covered with grass and appears to be gravelly also. That these peaks have been left after the action of flowing water seems most probable.

Before reaching the summit Banff is passed, near which are the hot springs, which are already becoming noted for their curative powers. There is the wild rugged scenery surrounding them, the beautiful Bow meandering through the mountains, and whose waters afford recreation for boating and canoeing, the cave and basin, and a multitude of favourable circumstances to attract both invalid and tourist.

#### Extract from Report of J. S. Dennis, D.T.S.

OTTAWA, 29th December, 1886.

The cattle ranching industry is making wonderfully rapid strides in our territories, as instanced by the fact that districts which a short time ago were considered unsuited for ranching purposes are now stocked by herds of cattle doing well.

The generally accepted theory has been that the grazing area was restricted to the south-western portion of the territories, but the present indications are that a very much larger area is well adapted for grazing. I am of opinion that all the country in the vicinity of, and south of the Canadian Pacific Railway line, to the International boundary, west of Moose Jaw, is more or less adapted for cattle ranching.

I saw many thousand head of cattle during the season, and in no instance did I notice any that did not look well and in good condition.

The raising of sheep is now being extensively conducted in many districts of the territories, noticeably in the vicinity of Calgary, there now being about 25,000 head of sheep north of the Bow river in that vicinity.

There is, of course, a more immediate return from sheep than cattle, the increase being greater, the yearly crop of wool being available for market, and a return from the increase is looked for at the end of the first year; whereas in cattle raising there is no return for three years after the beginning; but sheep are more liable to destruction by wolves than the cattle.

The development of the coal mining industry in the territories has been mentioned by many who have lately visited the country, and the question of a bountiful and cheap supply of fuel may now be looked up on as assured. In this particular our territories have a great advantage over the country immediately south of the International boundary, where the supply of coal is limited and of poor quality.

#### Extract from Report of J. J. McArthur, D.L.S.

January 3rd, 1887.

The view on entering the mountains is very fine, but becomes more extended and grand as one ascends the slopes towards the summits. The first ascent was up the mountain on the north side of the valley and directly behind Canmore station. The Bow river flows at the base of this mountain in a valley from one to two miles wide, and on the other side appear the Randle Mountains, which are snow-capped and very perpendicular. To the south there are three thoroughly defined peaks called the "Three Sisters," and up the valley about a dozen of miles or so stands the Cascade Mountain. On this mountain I located one of my stations; and from here is to be had one of the finest and most extensive views of the Rocky Mountains, embracing the Bow river and the Cascade, Spray and Simpson passes.

Looking towards the east glimpses of the prairie may be seen and in the foreground lies Devil's Head Lake. This lake is surrounded by mountains from 3,000 feet to 4,000 feet high, and is fed by numerous small streams which flow down the mountain sides. The water is cool and so clear that the swarms of fish with which it abounds may be seen many feet below the surface. The lake is included in the National Park Reservation, and will, no doubt, form one of attractions.

**Extract from Report of Edgar Bray, D.L.S.**

January, 12th, 1887.

**Sub-division survey in Lethbridge District.**

The land here is either rolling upland or river bottom, with good soil in both cases. Poplar and cottonwood timber in limited quantities grow in the valley of the Belly river, but not elsewhere within the limits of this survey.

Cool in workable seams and excellent quality was noticed in many places along Belly river.

Having here so much good farming land, with good prices for grain, it would be expected that grain growing would be followed as a business; such, however, is not the case, as I did not notice any systematic attempt at cultivating the soil.

The chief purpose to which this land is applied at present is ranching; and I am informed and believe that this business promises to become very profitable. I can say that the land in this survey is well adapted for raising cattle, especially along the rivers and also in Township 4, Range 23, as here water is always abundant and shelter in winter easily found among the hills. As a matter of fact about 3,000 head of horned cattle are now pastured along the Belly and Little Bow rivers within the limits of this survey, and a herd of about 700 cows was seen near the westerly boundary of Township 4, Range 23.

I was surprised to learn that these cattle did not receive extra care or feed in winter except in cases of sickness or disability, but during the whole year live on the grass of the prairie. Horses and sheep will no doubt do equally as well in this locality.

The weather was fairly good until about the middle of November, at which time the ground became frozen. On the 20th of that month six inches of snow was on the ground and the thermometer showed 20 degrees below zero. A few days thereafter the weather became mild, the snow disappeared, and we had fine days with frosty nights for four weeks, though the ground remained frozen. On the 20th of December a couple of inches of snow fell and the weather became cold again and continued very cold while I was in the country, which was until the end of the year.

**Extract from Report of William Ogilvie, D.L.S.**

January 27th, 1887.

The Canada Pacific Railway west of Calgary affords facilities to the tourist beholding along nearly 500 miles of its line sights that a Canadian may well feel proud to boast of as equalling the grandest and most inspiring scenery in the world. Coming from the east the tourist will find Calgary prettily situated at the entrance to the Rockies; and here he may gather some ideal impressions of the majestic scenery beyond in the gradual change from level prairie behind to the hills and valleys, and in the clear cool running streams fed by the mountain snows rippling over gravelly beds and wending their way through fruitful valleys in which Nature has strewn with lavish hand subsistence for thousands of cattle. At Morleyville this merges into a chain of bold rugged peaks, which rear their snow-capped tops above the clouds, and through the Rocky Mountains into scenery which becomes grander and wilder with huge towering rocks, gloomy canyons and falls of crystal water tumbling down the mountain sides.

**Extract from Report of Joseph Doupe, D.L.S.**

December 30th, 1886.

In the settlements about Edmonton, St. Albert and Fort Saskatchewan, although the past season was considerably drier than usual, the yield of all kinds of crops was much better than for many years past, both in respect of quality and quantity; that of potatoes, turnips and other roots being enormous. In potatoes there were many specimens of over three pounds in weight, a few of four and one of over five pounds; all, too, in single solid smooth potatoes, not an aggregation of two or more accidentally grown together. In one instance where the ground

was said to have been carefully measured, wheat yielded forty-one bushels to the acre, barley 68 and oats 114. Some other yields of wheat were reported showing greater increase, but as no actual weights were taken, I took no note of them. At Stoney Plain, about 17 miles west of Edmonton, I bought a few bags of potatoes from a farmer, and I never saw better in my life either in appearance or quality. They were so large that I asked him to give me the smallest ones, and my cook cut some of those in pieces when putting them on the fire to boil.

The settlements are extending in all directions. Settlers' houses are dotting the road all the way to Calgary, about two hundred miles; the greatest distance now without a house being only twenty miles.

In addition to the settlements rapidly extending along the Red Deer and Battle Rivers, a number have this past season settled on the Blind Man's River (or Blind River, as some of the people call it, from the Indian name Pas-kah-pe-we-si-pi), in Township 39, Range 27, west of the 4th Meridian. In Edmonton a large number of frame buildings and one of brick have been put up, and the town has the appearance of considerable prosperity. At St. Albert several very large and splendid frame buildings have been erected at the Mission and a number of smaller ones in the village.

I collected no details of any business or industry. A great many are represented, and there is room and need for a great many more.

A new telegraph line has been completed to Victoria, on the Saskatchewan, between 50 and 60 miles below Fort Saskatchewan, and an office opened there. It is intended next year to continue the telegraph line on the north side of the river down to Fort Pitt.

### THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY'S EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

A special train of a novel character, composed of fourteen cars and locomotive, left the Winnipeg yard on Friday, 12th October, 1883, bound for the west. It contained teams, men and outfit necessary for the establishing of experimental farms along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway west of Moose Jaw. Readers will recollect the late efforts of many prominent men and newspapers to belittle the territory along the line between Moose Jaw and Calgary, even going so far as to assert that this large tract was made up of desert and alkali land, entirely unfit for cultivation. As the following quotation, selected from a number somewhat similar in nature, will show:

"The company have been permitted to divert their main line so far to the south that for hundreds of miles it runs through land which is unfit for settlement. When they asked for such an alteration of the contract in their favour, they should have been warned that they still would be compelled to take the chief part of the land subsidy along the line of railway. They knew what the lands they wished to traverse were like. Their general character had been known for a quarter of a century. They constitute the northern portion of a great American desert, which is projected like the apex of a cone into the Canadian territory."

To prove how utterly at variance with the facts such assertions as these were, the C. P. R. Company conceived the idea of establishing farms at various points, to test the agricultural capabilities of this district. The directors did not undertake this work with the view of satisfying themselves as to the fertility of these lands and the correctness of locating the line where it has been constructed, but their desire was, by absolute proof, to show to the many thousands of tourists, capitalists and settlers who would travel over the section of the line between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains, that their assertions as to the value of this land were well founded, for while adverse opinions were held and any doubts remained it would be difficult to get farmers to try an experiment in which there was the slightest chance of failure.

As the season was far advanced, it was necessary to adopt a plan for covering the greatest extent of territory in the shortest time. That adopted was as follows:—The location for the farm decided on, the thirty teams were unloaded in the morning and put to work under the direction of one of the Company's field inspectors, and continued to break throughout the day. The Company's land commissioner after seeing the day's work fairly started, took the locomotive and his car and went in advance until he found a suitable place for the next day's operations, returning to the first point in the evening to load up and move the entire outfit during the night to the next location chosen.

One of these experimental farms was located at Gleichen, 785 miles west of Winnipeg; 2,961 feet above the sea level; situate on the south-west quarter of section 13, township 22, range 23, west of the 4th principal meridian. The farm lies north of the station. Its soil is a rich dark loam, eight to 14 inches deep, with a clay and sandy clay subsoil, rating No. 1. The farm contains forty-two acres. It is situated at the end of the sixth division of the railway, west of Winnipeg, where there is a roundhouse and workshops, together with offices and buildings usual to a divisional terminus. The land is a fair specimen of the district which stretches many miles in every direction. To the south of the railway track is the reserve of the Blackfoot tribe of Indians, on the banks of the Bow river, which has its rise in the summit of the Rocky Mountains, where its valley affords a pass renowned for its beauty and grandeur. On the reserve are two Indian villages comprising about 2,000 inhabitants, who, as the large game is rapidly disappearing with the presence of civilization, are betaking themselves to agricultural pursuits, under the direction of farm instructors appointed by the Government.

The grasses of this locality are admirably adapted to stock raising and dairy farming, the farms being situated in the eastern portion of the far famed grazing districts which stretch westward to the Rockies, whose snow-capped peaks are distinctly visible through the clear atmosphere some 150 miles distant.

About fifteen miles to the east lies the celebrated coal seam that crops out on the banks of the Bow river, near the Blackfoot crossing, and trends northerly along the Crowfoot Creek. This seam was traced last winter for several miles by means of borings carried on by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. The seam wherever tested showed a good quality of coal ten feet in thickness. It was found at depths varying from 65 to 115 feet below the surface. A shaft is now being sunk by the Company, with a view to its early development.

#### 1884.

Land was broken at Gleichen on the 22nd of October, and sown on the 31st of March and 22nd April. Wheat and oats were cut on the 25th of August, and the balance of wheat on the 9th of September. This finished the harvesting on the experimental farms.

Wheat	yielded	28½	bushels	per acre,	weight per bushel,	61½ lbs.
Oats	"	56½	"	"	"	43½ "
Peas	"	13	"			
No barley sown.						

#### 1885.

Seeding began on the 28th of March and finished on the 12th of April. Wheat and oats were harvested from the 28th to the 26th of August, and barley was cut several days earlier.

Wheat	yielded	38½	bushels	per acre.
Oats, white	"	47	"	"
Oats, black	"	53½	"	"

Barley and peas gave a good return. All varieties of roots and vegetables gave an excellent return, and a quantity of flax, sown as a test about the 1st of May, gave an extra fine crop, the yield of seed being very heavy.

NOTE.—Wheat from Gleichen farm, grown in 1885, and which returned 33½ bushels per acre, was sown on Sir Donald Smith's farm at Silver Heights in 1886, and an eighty acre field yielded over 20 bushels per acre, notwithstanding the fact that, except one or two light sprinklings, there was no rainfall between seed time and harvest. The sample is a bright full No 1 hard, weighing 64½ lbs. to the bushel, and obtained 3rd prize at the Provincial Exhibition.

#### Views Expressed by the Honourable Alexander Mackenzie, late Premier of the Dominion of Canada.

"I arranged to visit seven out of the ten experimental farms commenced by the railway company to ascertain, first, the effect of the alkali deposits, which prevailed to some extent in some districts, upon cereals and roots, and, secondly, to ascertain what the result was in a

" general way of these farms, considering soil and climate. I observed throughout the whole length of the road there was scarcely any poor soil to be seen. In quarters, notably between Medicine Hat and Moose Jaw, there was an appearance of dryness in the general aspect of the prairie, which was not apparent where the land had been ploughed. There is a sort of crispiness in the grass in some places that would seem to indicate a prevailing dryness. This, however, is not uniformly the case. What is known as buffalo grass, where it has a dry appearance, still continues to preserve its nutritious qualities, and cures as well standing as if cut. Such is the general statement made me by old settlers.

" I visited seven out of the ten experimental farms, namely : those at Gleichen, 784 miles from Winnipeg; Tilley, 713 miles; Stair, 668 miles; Dunmore, 650 miles; Forres, 615 miles; Maple Creek, 596 miles; and Gull Lake, 546 miles from Winnipeg. The whole of these farms cover a district of about 350 miles from east to west. The farms should evidently be taken as a test of the capabilities of the country for farming operations, and the suitability of the climate. I was careful to observe the quality of the crops, as well as the respective kinds. The wheat was uniformly a good crop, not as heavy as some seen in the district around Calgary or in Manitoba, but would probably average from 17 to 20 bushels to the acre. One remarkable feature of the whole country is the number of stocks of grain from one kernel. In one instance we counted no fewer than forty-six heads from one root. The oats and peas yielded a fair crop, while roots, such as potatoes and turnips, showed quite as good a result as any of the farms in better known districts of Manitoba. On several of the farms I observed tomatoes (in one case nearly ripe), melons, cucumbers and citrons. The district by these experimental farms covers the larger part of the district generally believed to be more or less arid in its character, and subject to alkali deposits. Alkali, however, is found in the Province of Manitoba as well as in the north-west and western districts. In the vicinity of Brandon, for instance, I observed considerable portions of the fields showing traces of alkali deposits. The uniform testimony of those who have cultivated the lands where alkali prevails is to the effect that it is worked out of the land after a few croppings. Some authorities, notably Professor Macoun, maintain that it does not at all injure the land."—*Extracts from C.P.R. Co. Exp. Farm Pamphlet.*

This same gentleman, in his speech at a banquet in Calgary, expressed his great astonishment at the vegetation he had seen in that vicinity. He had that day visited the Glenn and other Government farms, and on them saw fields of oats of such prodigious growth that, standing amongst the grain, it completely covered him, waving above his head. He stated had he been led blindfolded to the crop, he would have said they were stalks of Indian corn—they were oats. Such vegetation he had not thought possible in a country shadowed by the Rocky Mountains; and also he said he believed that while he saw the country was eminently suited for grain growing, yet he thought, from the rich grasses which covered the prairies, it must be still better adapted for dairy purposes.

#### **EXTRACTS FROM THE WRITINGS AND SAYINGS OF NOTED PERSONAGES WHO HAVE VISITED ALBERTA AND THE NORTH-WEST.**

**Extracts from notes by William Fream, B.Sc., London, F.L.S., F.G.S.**

#### **THE YOUNG CITIES OF THE PRAIRIE.**

The proximity of a railway is an important factor in the marketing of agricultural produce, and it is not surprising to find that towns have sprung up all along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, but it is surprising to reflect on the rapidity with which some of these towns have grown in size and importance, and how neat, business-like, and well laid out many of them appear to be. As some are the centres of leading agricultural districts, it appears desirable to give a brief account of a few of the leading ones, taking them in the order in which they are reached by the traveller in his journey westward from Winnipeg. The municipal organization of some of these towns is very complete, and remarkably so when it is borne in mind that most of them are not more than two or three years old ; they afford a strong testimony of the energy and capacity for business which characterize the dwellers in the North-West.

And now, west of Medicine Hat and as far as Calgary, a distance of 179 miles, the route lies through the last stretch of genuine prairie land—prairie land, too, of the most typical character, one sky-bound grassy plain, unbroken either by tree or shrub. Blackfeet, Crees, and parties of other tribes of Indians are here met with. Beyond Medicine Hat a broad table-land extends between the Bow River on the south and the Red Deer River on the north, and at Langevin, 35 miles west of the banks of the Saskatchewan, a recent boring for coal resulted in the tapping of a highly combustible gas which was ignited as it issued from the earth, and the heat evolved was, in September last, being utilized for driving the steam machinery employed in the boring. Crowfoot Crossing, 106 miles from Medicine Hat, takes its name from a well-known Indian chief; a few farms are established here, and there is also a large Indian reserve. Nineteen miles further on is Gleichen, in the midst of a promising agricultural district, and almost on the direct north and south line between the important centres of Fort Macleod and Edmonton, the former lying amongst the foot-hills southward on the banks of the Old Man River before it flows into the Belly River, a tributary of the South Saskatchewan, and Edmonton being far away to the north on the banks of the North Saskatchewan. Here, on a clear day, the lofty, snow-clad peaks of the Rocky Mountains, more than a hundred miles distant, may be seen glistening against the western sky. Beyond Gleichen is a fine expanse of unoccupied grazing land which, till recently, was the home of buffalo and antelope. Passing Cheadle, which is named in honour of the intrepid traveller who made the "north-west passage by land," the western boundary of the third prairie steppe is attained near the banks of the beautiful Bow River, penetrating the outer valley of which the traveller pushes on to Calgary, the most westerly of the genuine prairie towns met with along the track of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Calgary, 179 miles from Medicine Hat, 839 miles west of Winnipeg, 1,268 miles from Port Arthur, Lake Superior, and 2,280 miles west of Montreal, is more than 3,000 feet above the level of the sea. A small town as yet, it nevertheless possesses capacities for great and rapid development; the centre of a broad and fertile agricultural district, the head-quarters of the large cattle ranches to the south, the future commercial centre for the mining enterprise, which will, ere long, develop the country to the westward, and, above all, the natural beauty of its situation, these are some of the factors which will help to insure a great future for the town of Calgary. Eastward is the prairie, and the town itself is on the prairie; but to the north, to the south, and to the west, the foot-hills of the Rocky Mountains break the monotony of the scene, and are themselves thrown into relief by the loftier summits in the background, and these in turn present a wonderful contrast with the white peaks which tower above and behind them in awful grandeur.

Through the plain of Calgary flow the clear waters of the Bow River, which a short distance from the town is joined by its tributary, the Elbow. The excellence of the land in this district is testified by the number of flourishing farms on Pine Creek, on Fish Creek, and on the banks of the Elbow River, and the plentiful supply of good water, the abundance of fuel, and the kindly climate must continue to make this an attractive region to settlers. A journey northward by stage, occupying five days, is necessary to reach Edmonton, the head-quarters of the Saskatchewan trade of the Hudson's Bay Company.

West of Calgary the prairie continually narrows as it follows the course of the Bow River over which the railway is carried no less than four times.

#### CLIMATE OF THE PRAIRIE.

Nothing in connection with the North-West is, perhaps, more misapprehended at home than the nature of its climate. Old notions, and particularly erroneous ones, die hard, and the idea, that up to fifteen or twenty years ago was still current in England, that North-West Canada was a cold, desolate, inhospitable region, with its soil frost-bound nearly the year round, and fitted only to be the home of fur-bearing animals, still lingers in the minds of many people. That in the North-West the thermometer as a rule gives higher readings in the summer and lower in the winter than we are accustomed to in the old country is perfectly true, but in estimating the character of a climate it is wrong and misleading to be guided by the thermometer alone. The atmosphere possesses other properties besides temperature; it can tell a tale to other meteorological instruments besides the thermometer. The hygrometer, an instrument for indicating the amount of moisture in the air, should be observed in conjunction

with the thermometer, or the same information may be gained by comparing the readings of a wet bulb and a dry bulb thermometer. It is thereby ascertained that the air of Manitoba and the North-West is usually drier than that of the British Isles, and to comprehend the significance of this fact it is necessary to bear in mind the well-known physical law that water is a better conductor of heat than dry air. The presence in the atmosphere of moisture—and atmospheric moisture is merely water vapour, often containing minute particles of water—renders the air a better conductor of heat the higher the percentage of moisture. Hence, in cold weather, moist or damp air will conduct away heat from the animal body more rapidly than drier air, and thus arises the pronounced feeling of discomfort which in the British Isles is often associated with cold, damp weather, and probably much more frequently experienced in Britain than in North-West Canada. Dry air is a bad conductor of heat, so that, even with a very low temperature, such air really plays the part of an insulator in preventing the escape of warmth from the body. Let it, however, become saturated with moisture, and it would at once, by conducting the heat away from the skin, produce a sensation of cold and discomfort. On physical grounds, then, it is easy to understand how the dwellers in the North-West can endure a winter temperature which in our own climate would be intolerable—the dryness of the atmosphere is their protection. To explain why the atmosphere is so much drier there would involve too great a divergence into physiographical details.

#### THE PRAIRIE AS A HOME FOR SETTLERS.

What advantages or inducements does the North-West offer to settlers? Part of the answer to this question must be sought in the foregoing pages, but I will enumerate here some of what I consider to be the chief attractions. Grants of land within convenient distance of the railway may be obtained either free from the Government, or at very cheap rates from the Canadian Pacific Railway. These may be selected from the richest prairie land at the choice of the settler. No clearance of timber is required, there is no severe labor with the axe, nor any patient waiting for years in order that tree stumps may rot to facilitate their removal. The prairie sod can be laid under a plough for the first time and a crop harvested all within the space of the first twelve months. The country is well watered, for, from what has already been said, it is evident that rivers and lakes and creeks abound, and where running water is not conveniently near, good water can be got within moderate distance of the surface. The prairie is healthy to dwell upon, the climate is more genial than is generally supposed, and settlers who go out in robust health will find the country is not only tolerable, but enjoyable to live in. Weak or delicate people should not go there, for they might find the air too bracing. Idlers and loafers should not go there, because the prairie is in need of thrifty workers. Men who want to acquire wealth without working for it should not go there, because they will be disappointed. Thomas Carlyle once wrote, "Two men I honour, and no third;—first, the toil-worn craftsman that with earth-made implement laboriously conquers the earth and makes her man's." Men of this type will find on the prairie a wide field for conquest, and I believe they may feel more certain of a reward, and of a speedy reward, than in nine cases out of ten they could hope for in the old country.

Men who go out there determined to work will, as the years roll on, find themselves in a better position than they can hope to secure in the old country, and when the time comes for them to enjoy a well-earned rest in their declining years they will find that they have got the means to enable them to do so. And the children who are born and bred in the happy prairie homes, who will see around them on every side the triumphs of man's industry, who are reared in the bracing atmosphere of a northern sky, they cannot fail to be healthy and vigorous.

" Iron-jointed, supple-sinew'd, they shall dive, and they shall run,"

and, true "prairie flowers," they shall grow into men and women possessed of a physique which could never have been acquired under the sunnier, more southern, and more enervating climes whether so many efforts are made to attract British settlers,—scions of the nation which has conquered and colonized a larger portion of the earth's surface than all other nations taken together.

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The nutritive value of the prairie herbage is sufficiently proved by the fact of its having sustained the vast herds of buffalo which for ages have made the prairie their home, but which are now disappearing before the advance of civilization. Nevertheless, the introduction of cultivated grasses would in all probability be a step in the right direction, and the attempt would most likely be justified by the success which would follow it. Although much of the land appears capable of growing wheat for an indefinite period, yet those settlers whose means would allow of it would, I think, do well to sow a portion of their land with good English grass seeds after the third or fourth year. Such grasses as cocksfoot, foxtail, meadow fescue and timothy, together with white and purple clover and a little black medick suggest themselves as desirable, but every effort should be made to secure clean seed. It is an interesting fact that there are no true clovers native to the prairie, although many species of the milk-vetch, *Astragalus*, are met with.

The more mixed farming extends on the prairies the more interesting will the settlers find it, and the less dependent will they be upon the prices they will from year to year secure for their wheat. The establishment of flour mills in the North-West will lessen the cost of flour and oatmeal, while the facilities afforded by the railway must continue to enable them to compete on favourable terms with the other wheat-exporting countries of the world. Artificial feeding stuffs, like artificial fertilizers, belong to a future period.

There is no scarcity of timber or fuel, for vast forests are at different spots touched by the railway.

#### **EXTRACTS FROM A REPORT BY J. P. SHELDON, PROFESSOR OF AGRICULTURE, AT THE WILTS AND HANTS AGRICULTURE COLLEGE, DOWNTON, TALISBURG, ENGLAND, IN 1884.**

The grain-growing capacity of the soil is the leading criterion of its value, probably, in Manitoba and the North-West generally, and most likely will continue so for some time to come, because that region will become the chief granary of the American continent and remain so: but it is none the less true that its ability to produce excellent roots and green crops is a factor which will be utilized extensively in years to come. A purely grain-raising region is an agricultural anomaly which cannot last, and it is a fact of great potential value to this vast territory that its soil will produce all the crops which contribute to the plenary welfare of both men and animals. Cattle, horses, pigs and poultry are inseparable from the comfort of man in all agricultural communities, and the same may also be predicated of sheep; but all of these demand arrangements and provisions more or less intricate, in the form of shelter and food, provisions which can in a great measure be dispensed with while the land is devoted to grain-raising only. The process of populating the North-West with domesticated animals will be contemporary with the provision of shelter, water, and suitable food; and though the process may be a slow one, it will be perfected in time. In the foothills of the Rocky Mountains it will be much more rapid, for there exists in that region a rich natural herbage, a good supply of water for the most part, and abundance of "land shelter" among the hills and dales.

We passed along through the Province of Assiniboia, containing 95,000 square miles, and Alberta, containing 100,000 square miles, at least fifty per cent. of which is said to be good land available for agriculture. We saw several of the experimental farms which have been established by the C.P.R. Co., and found various cereals, roots and garden vegetables growing successfully on the new prairie soil. The soil varies from a dark-coloured clay to strong loams, and light sands, and affords scope for all kinds of agricultural fancy. But the handsomest country we saw was from Calgary up the slopes of the Rockies. This is the great ranching country, and we saw many cattle roaming about the pastures which adorn this undulating district—a district which stretches a long distance to the north and south of the railway. It must be admitted that the advantages which this country affords for cattle-raising are very extensive and important; for, as the isothermal line runs in a north-westerly direction along the prairies, the climate at the Rockies is habitable and even genial in a degree of latitude which is desolate on the Atlantic side of Canada. At a point five thousand feet above the sea level, in the Rocky Mountains, we found the air so mild that no overcoats were wanted, even at five o'clock in the morning, although we had come up the mountains in a snow-storm the previous evening. Above this point, which is the highest the railway attains in the Kicking Horse Pass, the

unnumbered snow-clad peaks of the mountains shoot up into the clear air ten or twelve thousand feet above us, forming a spectacle, grand, sublime, magnificent, and well repaying a thousand miles' journey over the prairies! The splendid pine trees with which the mountains are adorned creep up the peaks until they are stopped by the glaciers and the eternal snow, and there is abundant interest for the lovers of botany and geology. One magnificent day spent among the crags and ravines of British Columbia, brought us to the beginning of the return journey, many of us carrying away specimens of rocks, ferns and other flora, including even the wild gooseberry, which we found flourishing not far below the snow level.

The eastern slopes and foothills of the Rockies and the adjacent prairies are destined soon to resound, as indeed they already do in part, to the lowings of herds and the bleatings of flocks, and they will become one of the most important cattle-raising districts on the American continent. But ranching has various disadvantages in its present condition, and cannot well prosper save under the personal supervision of an owner or owners. Hired men are apt to render only such an amount of work and care as they deem themselves amply paid for, and absentee ownership is not calculated, as things are, to meet with much success. A fruitful source of loss occurs in calves when branding time comes round, many of them passing then into the ownership which happens to be most virulent; for, until they are branded, who can say to whom they belong, where cattle roam in common over millions of acres? Cattle that are out of condition when winter comes on are apt to perish in the cold, unless they are carefully fed and sheltered, and the Cochrane Ranching Company suffered severely one winter in this manner, with cattle that were out of condition after being driven northward from Montana, too late in the autumn. I am assured, however, that cattle in good condition to start with will stand the winter bravely, keeping on their flesh till long after Christmas. Grass, water, forage for hard winters, and shelter both natural and artificial, are indispensable to the continued success of a ranche. The winters vary in severity, so that the amount of provision to be made for stock, in the way of food and shelter, is always problematical; but the safe thing is to provide enough for any probable or possible contingency of weather, for an early winter and a late spring. It will thus be seen how necessary it is that an owner should be in residence at a ranche.

I am assured on good authority that fine crops of roots and oats can be grown with very crude cultivation, and that, even where the land in its natural state appears barren, maize and cereals prosper amazingly. The ranchers depend a great deal on the hay, which is self-curing, that is, on grass curing as it stands, to be consumed *in situ*; and it is a peculiarity of the native grass that it should cure in this way, providing frosts do not cut it down before it has had time to do so. Generally speaking, the cattle subsist very well through the winter on this self-cured hay, for the winds as a rule blow it bare of the dry snow; but when it happens to be deeply buried in snow, and remains so until the snow is frozen so as to resist the wind, then the cattle are in danger of perishing for want of food; and here it is that a supply of forage is so necessary and beneficial. Dairy farming, in connection more or less direct with ranching, will probably open out in Alberta, where, it is asserted, and, I think, not unfairly so, that the country possesses all the natural conditions essential to that business.

My impression is that the North-West of Canada presents an opening for pushing young men of good conduct, healthy, sober, thrifty and industrious. An extensive knowledge of British agricultural practices is not necessary to a farmer in the North-West, where farming is of the simplest imaginable character where ploughs are used at all. Capital is most useful in Canadian agriculture, and finds a better reward than in England, when it is in the hands of men who know how to use it. But even men of capital, and of experience in British farming, will be well advised not to embark at once in farming on their own account, but rather to hire themselves out to farmers already established, and thus to pick up tuition and cash at the same time. There is an old adage to the effect that "a man must pay for his learning." This, however, is not true in Canada, if men will hire themselves out as I have advised, for there **A MAN IS PAID FOR HIS LEARNING**, and does not pay for it himself. He should also look around the country north and south, and east and west, before he finally decides where to locate himself. Where land is so splendidly abundant, it is hardly worth his while to take hold of the first block he comes across. A new beginner in the North-West must make up his mind to "rough it" for a time, until he can get his domestic surroundings fixed up properly, to which end the energies of a wife would be well directed. He must also be prepared to work hard,

be steady, and be content with sparse society. Loungers find no congenial home in that country.

**EXTRACT FROM A LETTER PUBLISHED BY THE CALGARY  
"TRIBUNE," JANUARY 30th, 1887.**

The Letter Speaks for us, and is another Link of the Testimony Proving the Illimitable Resources of Alberta.

**SMELTING WORKS—THEIR NATURE AND COST—HOW THEY ARE OPERATED—DESCRIPTION OF ONE OF THE LARGEST WORKS—CALGARY'S ADVANTAGES FOR SUCH AN INDUSTRY.**

(*Special Correspondence of The Tribune.*)

ANACONDA, MONT., Dec. 12th.

As no doubt exists in my mind but that Calgary will be enveloped in smelter smoke and that at no distant period, and as but few are aware of the nature of a smelter, a description may not prove out of place.

Here are located the largest smelting works in America, using up 1,500 tons of copper ore daily.

THE ANACONDA SMELTER

burns 200 tons of coal, 150 cords of wood, and "chews" 1,500 tons of copper ore every 24 hours. Between 500 and 600 men are employed, on day and night shifts. Wages paid per month,—one hundred thousand dollars. But this amount pays the men employed at the "new works," which are of double the capacity of the old ones referred to,—but are not completed.

CALGARY IS ADMIRABLY LOCATED

for smelting works, on account of the immense water powers, coal fields, close proximity to vast forests and mineral lands, and instead of having to haul the fuel and ore up hill, as is the case here, the railroad would have the down hill pull. The bench land on the north bank of the Bow River was apparently planned by nature for smelting works. A suitable site is the main point, and the location referred to cannot be duplicated anywhere. An unfailing water power is indispensable. The same water that is employed to drive the machinery is used to wash the ore. An ore house must be well above the balance of the works, and the water flume must be about the same height. A flume five square supplies the works here, the water being brought three miles. One mile above Calgary, turn a very small portion of the Bow river into a flume and you can get force enough to drive all the machinery in Canada. Some may say, why not have smelting works

NEAR THE MINES!

I answer, simply because smelting works cannot be built anywhere. Suitable location, limitless water power, good foundation for heavy buildings, outlets for all waste water, room to dump the refuse of ore, where coal and wood can be hauled down hill and plenty of room for out-buildings, are just as essential to the erection of smelting works as the mines are. All these qualifications Calgary is in possession of, though perhaps unknown to herself. Work of any kind, where any quantity of men are employed, must be built near some commercial centre. Capitalists always aim to do this, as otherwise, the increased cost of living means so much more per day to each man. Plant 500 men at Silver City or Lagan and figure out how much more it will require to feed them than it will at Calgary, the base of supplies. On this principle Denver was made what she is. There are no mines near Denver to speak of.

## SAN FRANCISCO GAINED THE PRE-EMINENCE

which she now enjoys from her location, not from being close to any mines, but because she was a business centre and the base of supplies. What made Winnipeg? It was a distributing point. What made Chicago and Montreal? The same can be said of them. Calgary is the supply depot for a large extent of country, is firmly established as a commercial centre, and as such offers unrivalled attractions to the capitalist. Nature has been kind indeed to Calgary. The "Calgary reduction and smelting works" should be no myth. A free gift of sufficient land and exemption from taxes for a few years, is all the inducement a company should want to erect a smelter in Calgary. Of course the plant required is very costly, but why should Montana control the copper and silver markets of the world when there are just as good mines (though undeveloped) north of the boundary line.

MONTANA.

## CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

## Free Grants to Settlers.

Settlers can obtain free grants of land in the Canadian North-West upon the following conditions, viz.:—

1. By making entry and within six months thereafter erecting a habitable house and commencing actual residence upon the land, and continuing to reside upon it for at least six months in each year for three years, and doing reasonable cultivation during that period.
2. By making entry for the land, cultivating it for three years, so that at the end of that period not less than forty acres be under cultivation; residing for at least six months in each year during that time within a radius of two miles of the homestead, and erecting a house and residing in it upon the homestead for three months next preceding the application for patent.
3. By making entry and within six months from the date thereof, commencing the cultivation of the homestead, breaking and preparing for crop within the first year not less than five acres; cropping the said five acres, and breaking and preparing for crop not less than ten acres in addition, and erecting a habitable house before the expiration of the second year, and thereafter residing thereon at least six months in each year and cultivating the land for three years next prior to the date of the application for patent.

The only charge for a homestead of 160 acres is the entrance fee of ten dollars, in the case of forfeited pre-emptions, an additional fee of five dollars, and in case of cancelled homesteads, an additional inspection fee of ten dollars. Settlers have the right to pre-empt the adjoining quarter-section of 160 acres, if available, and within six months of completion of the homestead duties, may purchase the pre-emption at the price of Government lands at the time of making the entry. On failure to complete such purchase, the pre-emption may be opened for settlement on conditions stated in the 38th section of the Dominion Lands Act.

All further information will be supplied on application by the Dominion Land Agents.

"32. Every person who is the sole head of a family, and every male who has attained the age of eighteen years, who makes application in the form "A" in the schedule to this Act, shall be entitled to obtain homestead entry for any quantity of land not exceeding one quarter-section, which is of the class of land open, under the provisions of this Act, to homestead entry; and such person shall at the same time as he obtains entry declare under which of the conditions prescribed by clause thirty-eight of this Act he elects to hold the land affected by such entry."

2. Such person may also, in connection with such homestead entry, obtain at the same time, but not at a later date, a pre-emption entry for an adjoining unoccupied quarter-section, or part of a quarter-section, of land of the said class:

3. The entry for a homestead and for its attached pre-emption, if any, shall entitle the recipient to take, occupy and cultivate the land entered for, and to hold possession of the same to the exclusion of any other person or persons whatsoever, and to bring and maintain actions for trespass committed on the said land; the title to the land shall remain in the Crown until the issue of the patent therefor, and the land shall not be liable to be taken in execution before the issue of the patent:

4. The privilege of homestead and pre-emption entry shall only apply to surveyed agricultural lands; no person shall be entitled to such entry for land valuable for its timber, or for hay land, or for land on which there is a stone or marble quarry, or coal or other mineral having commercial value, or whereon there is any water-power which may serve to drive machinery, or for land which, by reason of its position, such as being the shore of an important harbour, bridge site or canal site, or being either an actual or prospective railway terminus or station, it is in the public interest to withhold from such entry. 46 V., c. 17, s. 27.

34. Every person applying for homestead entry shall appear and make affidavit before the local agent, or, in his absence, the senior clerk performing his duties, according to the form B, C, or D in the schedule of this Act, as the circumstances of the case require; and upon filing such affidavit with such local agent, or senior clerk, and on payment to him of an office fee of ten dollars, such persons shall receive a receipt from the local agent, or senior clerk, according to the form "E" in the schedule of this Act; and such receipt shall be a certificate of entry and shall be authority to the person obtaining it to take possession of the land described in it:

2. If a person who obtains homestead entry applies for and obtains at the same time a pre-emption entry, he shall pay to the local agent, or senior clerk, a further office fee of ten dollars, and shall receive therefrom him a receipt in like form, and having like effect to that prescribed for homestead entry:

3. The Minister of the Interior or the Dominion Lands Board, upon requisition, may authorize any person named therein to make a homestead entry or homestead and pre-emption entries, on behalf of any person signing such requisition and desiring to obtain such entry or entries:

4. The person so authorized shall, in order to obtain such entry or entries, make application in the form "F" in the schedule to this Act, on behalf of each of those whom he represents, and shall make an affidavit before the local agent, or, in his absence, the senior clerk performing his duties, according to the form G, H or J, in the schedule to this Act, as the circumstances of the case require; and shall pay for each homestead entry, and for each pre-emption entry, the office fee of ten dollars hereinbefore prescribed for such entry. 49 V., c. 27, s. 4.

36. Every person who has obtained homestead entry shall be allowed a period of six months from its date within which to perfect the entry, by taking, in his own person, possession of the land and beginning continuous residence thereon and cultivation thereof; and if the entry is not perfected within that period, it shall be void, and the land shall be open to entry by another person, or to other disposition under this Act by the Minister.

(2.) Provided, that every person who obtains entry on and after the first of September in any year, and whose term for perfecting the same expires before the first day of June following, shall be allowed an extension of time to the latter date within which to perfect his entry:

(3.) Provided further, that in the case of immigrants from elsewhere than the North American continent, the Governor in Council may extend the time for the perfecting of entry to twelve months from the date thereof. 46 V., c. 17, s. 31.

37. If a number of homestead settlers, embracing at least twenty families, with a view to greater convenience in the establishment of schools and churches, and to the attainment of social advantages of like character, ask to be allowed to settle together in a hamlet or village,

### A GIGANTIC ENTERPRISE.

Sir John Lister Kaye is busily engaged in correspondence and other matters in connection with his large enterprise, the Alberta and Assiniboia Land, Stock and Coal Co. He is trying to buy from the Canadian Government and Canadian Pacific Railway land on the C.P.R. at intervals of 49 miles for about 400 miles east of Calgary. They comprise blocks of land of 20,000 acres each, and include the ten experimental farms of the C.P.R. At these farms the tests have shown a yield of  $21\frac{1}{2}$  bushels of wheat per acre,  $44\frac{1}{2}$  of oats,  $23\frac{1}{2}$  of barley and  $12\frac{1}{2}$  peas. They are to be at Rush Lake, Swift Current, Gull Lake, Crane Lake, Kincaid, Dunmore, Stair, Bantay, Namaka and Langdon. At each of these places the soil, grasses and living water have been carefully examined, and in each case found most satisfactory.

The idea is to locate 70,000 head of cattle on a wild range north of Calgary in the Red

Deer River district and to improve the stock. It is the intention of the company to import pure Polled Angus bulls and cows, and with them improve the stock of the above herd. With this view it is intended to bring yearling heifers and heifer calves to the ten properties on the C.P.R., where will be stationed the pure Polled Angus herds. Then in the same manner to buy mates for breeding with Clydesdale and thoroughbred stallions imported for the purpose. We will also buy 21,000 head of sheep and improve them with pure bred Cheviot and Leicester rams and ewes, and the same number of pigs will be purchased and improved with Yorkshire boars and sows. The promoter of this company hopes and believes that so large an undertaking, embracing as it does cattle, horses, sheep and hog breeding to its greatest advantage as regards pureness of blood, the raising of cereals, developing of coal, building of villages and farmsteads and general opening up of the country, and bringing in settlers, will not only prove to be an excellent investment, but will advance the interests of the country. The project is strongly believed in and supported by capitalists in England and Scotland. The total amount of money required to place the enterprise on its present lines is £1,000,000 or \$5,000,000. Sir John Kaye has already arranged for the greater portion of this capital, and in a short time the company expects to begin operations.—*The Emigrant*, August, 1887.

J. G. FITZGERALD,  
Calgary, Alberta.

COCHRANE RANCHE, ALBERTA, January 30th, 1888.

There are about 7,000 sheep on the range at present. Have sold about \$7,000 worth of sheep from the band during the past year, and about \$6,000 worth of wool. Our ewes are grade Merinos, and we are breeding to imported Shropshire Rams and find cross very satisfactory for both wool and mutton, and are of opinion that Scotch Cheviots would do better and breed a hardier sheep, which would require little if any feed during winter.

Sheep are here divided into bands of about 2,500 each for the winter, and 1,500 for the summer. Our winter sheds are sheltered from the north and west, and we feed our sheep hay on the cold mornings in December and January.

With careful management we expect 100 per cent. increase every year.

Lambing starts on the first of May. Shearing about the middle of June. Clip should average about 6 lbs. per head. Loss in large bands should not average over 3 per cent. per annum if draft lives are sold off every year. The mortality among lambs is wonderfully small, much less than in Scotland. All prevalent diseases among sheep in the old country are not known here. Parasites are also unknown, but we dip the sheep every year as a preventative.

Yours truly,

E. B. COCHRANE.

